



## Ministers under fire as job losses reach 6,000 in a week

THE government was yesterday accused of "wrecking British industry" as it emerged that job losses for the past week were running at the rate of more than 150 every working hour.

Yesterday's announcement by the Ford motor company that it plans to shed 2,100 jobs increased fears that unemployment, currently standing at more than 2.5 million could approach 4 million before the recession bottoms out and firms start recruiting again.

Conservative MPs said most of the redundancies would be voluntary and that they were the result of improving efficiency in the face of increased competition.

Reported redundancies show that more than 6,000 people were told during the week their jobs would go. The true figure is probably much higher as the effect of small scale company closures take weeks to register in official

The redundancies announced by Ford yesterday have increased fears that unemployment could hit four million. Tim Jones and Jill Sherman report

figures. The figure is more than half of the confirmed redundancies for the whole of December, the last month for which accurate figures are available, which show that 10,367 people lost their jobs. People in motor manufacturing and other heavy industries appear to have born the brunt of the job losses.

Thorn EMI said about 800 white collar jobs at head office would go as a result of a decision to convert about 450 Rumbecks shops to retail outlets for consumer electrical goods. British Coal said it was seeking a further 620 voluntary redundancies and Granada television blamed rising costs for its decision to shed 100 jobs. British Aerospace said 450 jobs

would have to go at its guided weapons plants and warned of more redundancies if it fails to secure a £700m order for a new missile for the RAF.

VSEL in Barrow-in-Furness, blamed the recession and the peace dividend for its decision to shed 600 jobs and Vosper Thorneycroft, the shipbuilders, said 350 jobs would go in Southampton.

BT, which has embarked on a big job cutting programme, which so far has not involved compulsory redundancies, said 1,500 cleaning jobs would have to go and hinted hundreds of other employees were at risk in its building services division. In Scotland, the Anderson mining equipment group said 160 jobs would be lost

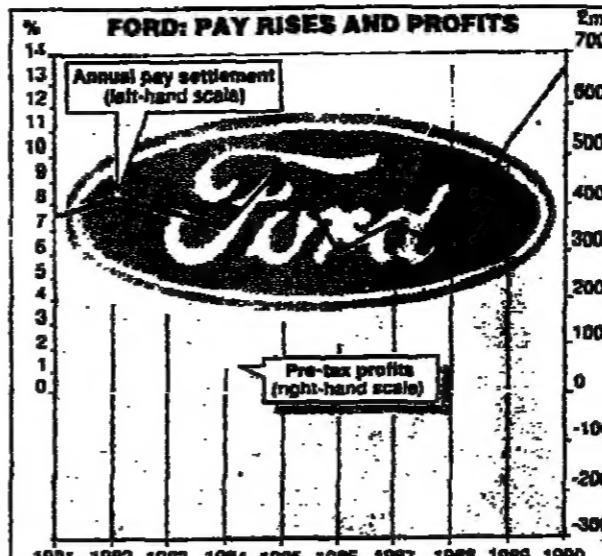
because of a decision to close its plant in Glasgow.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary urged the government to use the budget to boost industry rather than lower taxes in the hope of a short term consumer boom.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry spokesman said Labour would step up its pre-budget campaign for action to stimulate investment and employment.

Chris Patten, Tory party chairman ascribed the job losses at Ford to the drive towards greater efficiency. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 new jobs were announced by British Airways yesterday for the manning of a Boeing 747 maintenance base being built at Cardiff-Wales airport.

British Airways Maintenance Cardiff, a BA subsidiary, has signed a single union recognition agreement with the Amalgamated Engi-



neering Union. The agreement will cover a new £70 million base with three hangars to cater for the continuing expansion of BA's and other airliners' fleets. The first phase of the base is due to be operational by April next year, employing up to 1,200 by 1994.

As politicians condemned the 600 redundancies declared yesterday at the Ford Halewood plant on Mersey-

side, union leaders at the factory appeared more relaxed about the losses (Ronald Faux writes).

Peter Moore, the plant's convenor for the transport and general union, said that the voluntary redundancies were part of a rolling programme announced last year and agreed in consultation with the union. "We have been with the operations manager at Halewood today and he has confirmed there are no extra redundancies and no more are required," he said.

A Ford spokesman said that the losses were within a programme for voluntary redundancies running since 1980. The company could not give its final target because one had not been set. The objective was to produce cars competitively and productively. "Unless we do that, there won't be a factory to employ anyone," he said.

"It is the other side of the Nissan coin. If the government is going to trumpet about new jobs in the North-East, they cannot shrug off the decision by another company to axe 600 workers."

Eddie Laidlow, Labour MP for Liverpool, Garston, said that the news clearly showed that the recession had not bottomed out and that the car industry was in a precarious condition. Local council officials regretted the losses, even though they were part of a voluntary programme.

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Ford job losses, page 1

### Clarke to take on student unions

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are planning to extend the government's anti-closed shop legislation to student unions if the Conservatives win the election.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has submitted a proposal for a bill on union membership in the first session of Parliament if the government is returned. The National Union of Students would be compelled to have individual members for the first time, rather than acting as a confederation of local organisations. Membership of local unions would also become voluntary if practical problems can be ironed out.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, and a former NUS president, said: "This would be an act of pettiness and vindictive spite, sealed by pique that the Conservatives have lost so much support among students. It is typical of Kenneth Clarke to abuse his powers when dealing with those who may disagree with him."

### Kinnock reassures aides on benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock, the Labour leader, has reassured senior members of the shadow cabinet that the party's spending commitments on child benefit and pensions will be introduced in the first year of a Labour government.

Both pledges are unlikely to be implemented until at least seven months into the financial year, however, reducing the first-year cost from £3.1 billion to about £1.2 billion. This will ease the pressure for tax changes to pay for them.

Shadow cabinet ministers admit that Labour's separate promise to raise pensions annually in line with earnings may be delayed until April 1994 if a bill cannot be fitted into the legislative timetable in a first year. Labour has long been committed to raise retirement pensions by £5 a week for a single person and by £8 a week for a couple "immediately".

The promise is stated explicitly in the preliminary manifesto *Opportunity Britain*, published last April. The same document pledges to increase child benefit "immediately" by restoring its real

value to its level in April 1987 (a rise to £9.95 in April 1992 prices).

Since Mr Kinnock announced that the tax changes to finance the commitments might be phased in, there has been speculation that the pensions and child benefit pledges might be phased, too.

A spokesman for the social security department confirmed that it could take six months or longer to introduce a change in benefit levels, depending on parliamentary time. The government would have to lay down affirmative regulations, these would have to be debated, written and then passed as law.

The earliest that raising pensions in line with earnings could be implemented is April 1993. If other legislation took precedence in a first year, the move could slip to April 1994, shadow cabinet members admitted yesterday.

A Labour spokesman said last night that the party would still start implementing the changes "immediately". A Labour government was elected, but conceded that it would take five months or so to take effect.

Tory 'blunders', page 6

### Reynolds cabinet to break from old style

By JAMIE DETTMER

ALBERT Reynolds, Ireland's prime minister-designate, is likely to make sweeping cabinet changes on Tuesday when he is formally confirmed as leader by the Irish parliament.

So comprehensive was his victory in the Fianna Fail leadership contest on Thursday that Mr Reynolds has virtually a free hand. He is likely to bring in fresh blood and promote more women.

Up to six ministers could be sacked, including Garry Collins, the foreign minister, who has had a good working relationship with Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary. Although well thought of by the British government, Mr Collins's tenure as foreign minister has been seen by many in the Dail as lacklustre.

He also suffers, as do most of the possible ministerial casualties, from too close an association with Charles Haughey, the outgoing prime minister. Above all, Mr Reynolds seems to want to break from the Haughey style of leadership and to end the public view of ministers being involved in shady dealings.

The other casualties are likely to include Ray Burke, justice minister since 1989, Michael O'Kennedy, labour minister, and Rory O'Hanlon, environment minister. The two most recent appointments, Vincent Brady, defence, and Noel Davern, education, who were promoted to replace ministers sacked last November for plotting against Mr Haughey, are also talked of as possible casualties.

Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, sacked by Mr Haughey as a minister in his own office last autumn, is being tipped to succeed Mr Collins. Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn was the first woman deputy to reach cabinet ministerial level since the foundation of the republic. She is a fluent Irish speaker and has wide experience of European Community affairs. A dynamic politician, she was a member of Mr Reynolds's campaign team in the leadership ballot.

David Andrews, a staunch opponent of Mr Haughey, could become justice minister. He served in government under Jack Lynch, but was dropped when Mr Haughey became Fianna Fail leader in 1979. He is a barrister who has the reputation of being pragmatic.

Aware that large-scale sackings could create a powerful focus of resistance to his leadership among the old guard, Mr Reynolds will probably avoid pushing our more than half a dozen ministers.



Mourners at the funeral of Michael O'Dwyer  
Bishop urges city not to lose hope

BELFAST was now a city where fear was gripping homes, evil terrorising streets and hatred embittering hearts, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor said yesterday.

The Right Rev Patrick Walsh told the hundreds of mourners at the funeral of Jack Duffin, aged 67, the first to be buried of the five people shot dead in a bookmaker's shop by Loyalist gunmen on Wednesday, that they must not lose hope. "The barriers to peace appear to be insurmountable, to be immovable like the mountains which cradle our city... [but] we have faith in Christ and can and must move them."

Earlier, Bishop Walsh officiated at the funeral in west Belfast of Michael O'Dwyer, aged 21, one of three men shot dead on Tuesday at the Sinn Fein office by a policeman who then committed suicide. Hundreds of mourners heard the bishop speak of the "dark cloud" cast over the city by the appalling series of killings.

Meanwhile the leaders of Ireland's four main churches yesterday visited hospitals in Belfast to bury doctors and nurses for their work with the victims of violence. They rejected a claim by John Hume, MP, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour party, that they must not lose hope. "The barriers to peace appear to be insurmountable, to be immovable like the mountains which cradle our city... [but] we have faith in Christ and can and must move them."

BBC post

Michael Stevenson, deputy editor of the BBC programme *On The Record*, has been appointed secretary of the BBC board of governors from Monday. Mr Stevenson, aged 31, succeeds John McCormick, who has been appointed controller of BBC Scotland.

Trustees are requested to list each pension fund for which they are trustees and the amount that they think is missing.

The MPs ask the trustees: "What date would you give as the time when you realised that some of the pension funds might have gone missing?"

Another question makes the request: "List each living member of the Maxwell family: the nature of any instructions that they have given or letters written in the last 12 months; the date they gave them to the following persons or their firms or their partners/directors: Werner Keicher of Vaduz; Joshua Hassan, of Gibraltar; Geoffre de la Pradella, of Paris; persons used by Robert Maxwell and/or Maxwell trust foundations in Panama and the British Virgin Islands."

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### MPs give Maxwells fortnight to reply

By JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN and Ian Maxwell have been given two weeks to reply to 70 questions from MPs about their role in the Mirror Group Newspapers pension fund.

The Commons social security committee has asked the brothers and all other Maxwell company pension trustees detailed questions about how the funds operated and how individuals contributed at meetings.

Last month, the Maxwell brothers stonewalled the committee's attempts to question them on how millions of pounds had been siphoned out of the Mirror Group fund, claiming a right to silence.

However, at the time, their lawyers suggested that the brothers might

agree to answer some written questions.

The trustees have been asked to describe meetings in terms of length and atmosphere, who decided the agendas, whether unofficial meetings were held, how new trustees were appointed and whether requests for meetings were ever refused.

The MPs ask whether the late Robert Maxwell brought advisers or staff to meetings who were not trustees, and also ask: "Did you ever vote against Mr Maxwell?"

The committee, chaired by Frank Field, the Labour MP for Birkenhead, also questions trustees on whether they ever signed any transfer of funds, and to whom. Detailed questions are asked on how Bishopsgate Investment Management was chosen to take over running the pension fund.

# Fingerprints checked for clues to kidnapper

BY PETER VICTOR

**FINGERPRINTS** and marks thought to have been left by the kidnapper of estate agent Stephanie Slater are being examined by police forensic scientists.

The new development came yesterday as further details emerged of the kidnapper's letter to police, media and family of Leeds girl Julie Dart, whom police believe was killed by the same man. His letter, full of contrite language, says that he is "ashamed, upset and thoroughly disgusted" by his treatment of Miss Slater. He described how he tried to make her laugh and smile during her captivity, but says that it was "heartbreaking to see her face change to one which was terrified".

He says: "I know I was doing this to her. Even now my eyes are filled with tears. I wake up during the night actually crying."

He says he hopes that Miss Slater will get over the experience, but that he never will. His only satisfaction is that he knew he could, and did, carry out the crime.

The letter, discovered at the regional offices of the BBC in Leeds yesterday, was one of seven sent by the kidnapper. Detectives had alerted the BBC to look for the letter.

Police psychologists from



Artist's impression of Miss Slater's abductor

## I wanted to die acid case man says

A HUSBAND accused of killing his wife by putting her in a vat of acid in a locked garage said yesterday that he "just wanted to finish it all" after finding her in bed with another man.

Cecil Jackson, aged 36, described at the Central Criminal Court the moment when he found his wife Dassa, aged 30, with her lover. "I saw her and this geezer in bed and I just felt like everything had just come to an end. I was so shocked. I didn't know what to do."

"I just looked at both of them, turned round, and walked out. I had never seen her with another man before. I just wanted to die." Mr Jackson said that he sat at a railway station thinking



Deeply upset: Chris Eubank, before the crash, and right, his Range Rover at the scene yesterday

## Eubank bailed after death crash

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

**CHRIS** Eubank, the world super-middleweight boxing champion, was released on police bail last night after being involved in a car crash which killed a workman at roadworks on the A23 in West Sussex.

The fingerprints have already been checked against Scottish records, which are computerised. The process will take a great deal longer in England, where records are checked manually.

Police have now received more than 4,000 calls from the public in response to an artist's impression of the kidnapper, produced with Miss Slater's help.

Kevin Watts, Miss Slater's colleague who acted as courier for the ransom drop, told *The Sun* that the journey to deliver the money was a nightmare. He drove through swirling fog, at the direction of the kidnapper, from Birmingham to a bridge near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, where he was ordered to leave the £175,000 on a wooden tray. Mr Watts was in continuous contact, via a hidden microphone, with police, but said he still felt "terribly alone and vulnerable".

Kevin Lawlor, aged 33, a former foreign legionary, died instantly when he was struck by Mr Eubank's Range Rover at Pease Pottery near Crawley, yesterday. The boxer and three passengers, on their way to

Gatwick, were treated for minor injuries at the Prince Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath.

Mr Eubank was questioned at Burgess Hill police station. Supt Mark Jordan, station commander, said: "He is to be released on condition that he returns in about six weeks. No charges had been made."

The crash happened 65 minutes before Mr Eubank's British Airways flight was due to leave Gatwick for Ja-

maica at 10.55am. A BA spokesman said: "An hour and a half before take-off is the absolute latest a passenger can book in to be guaranteed a place on the plane."

Mr Jordan said that the boxer was deeply upset about the accident. "Mr Eubank specifically asked officers to pass on his condolences to the dead man's family."

Traffic police were examining the Range Rover to see if a mechanical fault had caused the crash. Simon

Lawlor, the victim's nephew, said: "We can't blame Chris Eubank until we know what happened. If it was an accident, it was an accident. There is nothing you can do about it. The whole family is devastated."

Mr Eubank considered quitting boxing after a title fight with Michael Watson last September left Watson in hospital with brain damage. But he returned to the ring last Saturday, successfully defending his title.

## Halifax in £18m plan to rescue borrowers

BY RACHEL KELLY  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Halifax building society yesterday announced an £18 million mortgage rescue scheme with three housing associations, the second such scheme to be launched.

The Halifax refused to say how many families would be rescued by the mortgage-into-rent scheme, but it is likely to be about 300. The deal is part of plans announced yesterday to keep 3,500 borrowers with arrears in their homes.

The mortgage-into-rent scheme involves the Halifax offering loans to the Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, Hyde Housing Association and the North British Housing Association and deals with London properties.

The Halifax refused to disclose the reduced interest rate at which it will offer loans to the associations to buy properties from borrowers in arrears. Its spokesman said that the terms were "far more realistic to all parties than those we have seen detailed in the press to date".

Nationwide announced the first mortgage-into-rent rescue, with equity-linked loans at rates from 3.5 per cent to 8 per cent. A Times study last week showed that rates may have to be below 6 per cent to permit affordable rents in loan-to-rent plans with housing associations.

The Halifax's other rescue measures include a "shared appreciation mortgage", by which it hopes to help up to 2,000 families making reduced payments and sharing any rise in house value.

The trial continues on Monday.

Weekend Times, page 15

## Jealous husband shut wife in shed

FOR 50 years a husband locked his wife in the coal shed or a bedroom of their council house every time he went out. The practice was disclosed after the woman was taken to hospital and died.

The spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said: "There was no complaint from either party and no offence had been committed."

Brian Harrison, chairman of Manchester city council's social services committee, said: "We are very concerned about domestic violence involving elderly people. I have asked for our director of social services to immediately investigate this case. I will ensure that this couple continue to get the support of the department."

"A woman, particularly in the past, would depend on a man for economic reasons and that would change to emotional dependence. What concerns me is that the wife concerned has been the object of jealousy and possessive treatment but has rejected being placed elsewhere."

"It was almost as if she had got used to it and for her it was the norm. The wife concerned has been the object of jealousy and possessive treatment but has rejected being placed elsewhere."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The classroom revolution

It is a revolution in the making - the biggest shake-up in education since schools went comprehensive. The government's radical reform aims to halt the rapid decline in standards. Will the changes transform the intellectual health of



the nation, or plunge the system into deeper crisis? The Sunday Times commissioned an independent report by two American experts, John Chubb and Terry Moe. The results of their survey, involving pupils, parents and teachers, are revealed tomorrow.

Magazine special issue - The Sunday Times tomorrow

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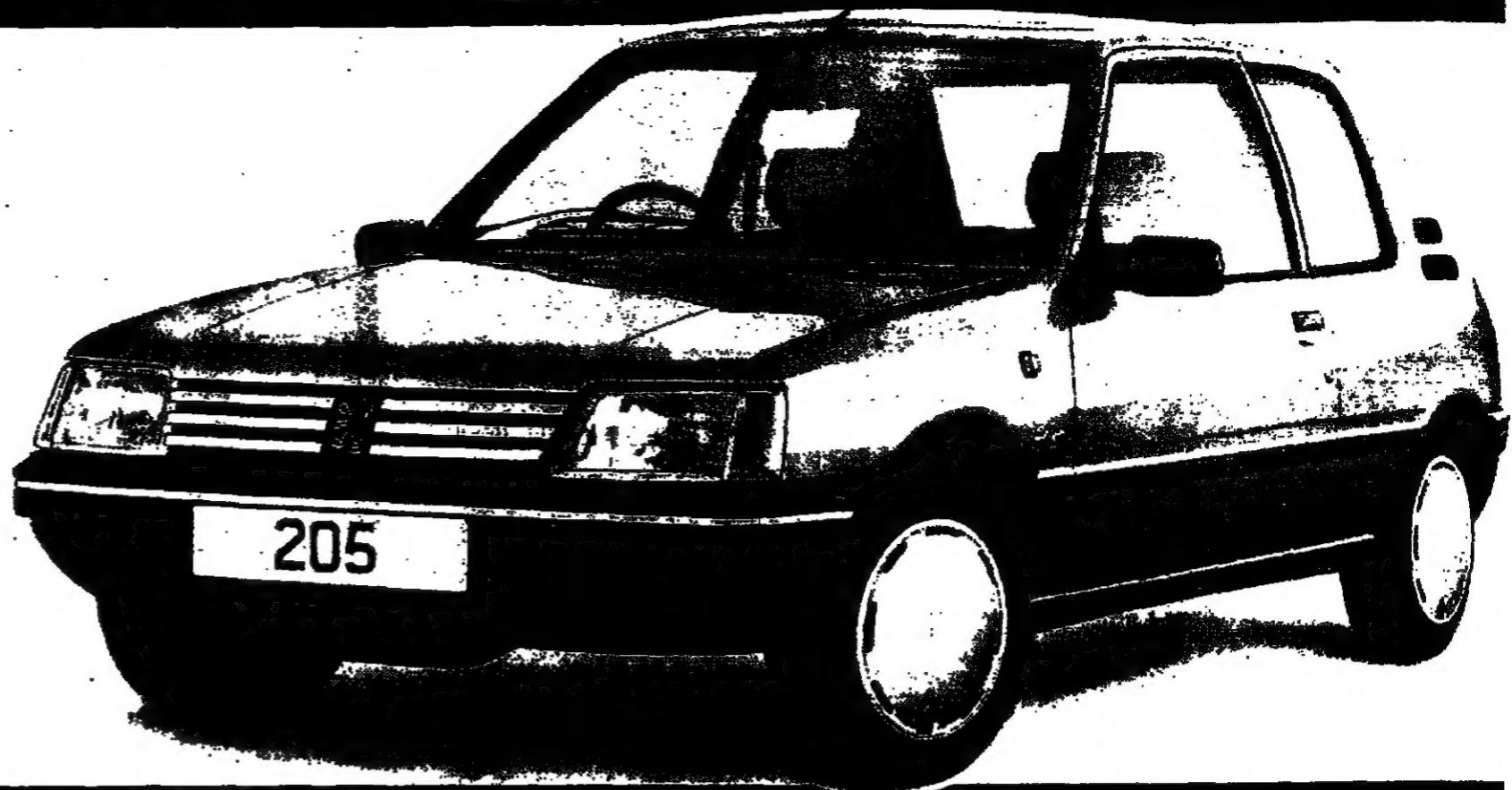
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## Witnesses hide identity at joyride inquest

A SCRÉEN was used to conceal the identity of witnesses at an inquest into the deaths of two joyriders yesterday. The witnesses had feared reprisals after giving evidence at the hearing on Colin Atkins, aged 21, and his passenger Dale Robson, aged 17, whose deaths sparked a wave of riots on the Meadow Well estate in North Shields, Tyne and Wear, last summer.

Atkins and Robson, both of North Shields, died when their stolen Renault Turbo hit a lamp-post and exploded. They were being chased by two officers in a police car at speeds of up to 120mph.

The pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examinations was among those hidden from view at the inquest in Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. One motorist, who was overtaken by both cars, refused to speak and would only write answers to the coroner's questions.

The inquest was told that Atkins and Robson died from extensive burns and multiple injuries. The crash, last September, on a slip-road leading to the Tyne Tunnel near Newcastle upon Tyne, led to night-time riots by youths who blamed the police pursuers for the deaths.

Yesterday, several drivers, identified only by letters, told the inquest that they were overtaken by the Renault, which veered from lane to lane on the Coast Road before swerving on to the slip-road to the tunnel.

Police Constable G, a traffic officer who was a passenger in the police Sierra chasing the joyriders, said that the Renault had been noticed driving through the city suburb of Jesmond at

### Babies saved by balloons

BY THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SURGEONS have inserted and inflated tiny balloons inside the hearts of babies only a few days old to treat incurable congenital cardiac defects.

A report of what is believed to be the world's first such operations is published in *The Lancet* today by doctors at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Alder Hey. Four babies, aged from three to eight days, have undergone the procedure in the past few months. Although not a cure in itself, the technique enabled the infants to survive long enough to have more complex, reconstructive heart surgery.

The infants were born with left-heart obstruction, in which an arterial duct closes during the first few days of life, blocking circulation to the rest of the body. About 200 such infants are born in Britain every year and most die within a few days or weeks.

## Thunderbirds fan saves Virgil's face

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A 20-YEAR mystery surrounding the whereabouts of one of the most handsome faces of Sixties television has been solved. The disappearance of Virgil Tracey, the debonair pilot in the puppet series *Thunderbirds*, remained a conundrum which would have baffled even the programme's eccentric boffin, Brains.

Most of the original plaster casts of the puppets were kept when the last episodes were filmed at

Then, after appeals for news of Virgil's whereabouts were published in several newspapers, Peter Thorley, once among many Slough children who watched the series being filmed, came forward, clutching the plaster cast he rescued from a skip two decades earlier.

Ms Glanville said last night: "I am absolutely delighted to have Virgil back. Now we have all the original main characters or their casts." She was more coy about whether the belated reunion of the full cast would lead to filming of a new series. "We'll have to see about that."



F.A.B.: the tanned and debonair Virgil Tracey



Ground work: Dave Walker, a worm farmer, releasing his stock on the 25-acre Warlands refilled opencast site in Co Durham where the worms are used to aerate the soil and improve drainage

## Carey helps to save trust for ex-offenders

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, has helped to save a voluntary agency which provides training for ex-offenders. The Apex Trust, which last week was on the brink of liquidation, is expected to survive as a result of funds pledged by businessmen after a reception hosted by Dr Carey.

Apex helps 8,000 people a year. The trust operates on the basis that ex-offenders are three times less likely to commit another offence if they find a job.

Although the trust was profitable, cash flow difficulties were caused by a change in the payment of training grants by training and enterprise councils from advance to arrears funding. The added effect of the department's claim and its withdrawal of funding pushed the organisation over the brink.

Malcolm London of Cork Gully, the administrator, said at least £250,000 was needed to save the trust. "We have made a good start and are optimistic."

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If even the slightest drop of water manages to get through to the inside, back to the manufacturer's drawing board it goes.

(If a product bearing our name should ever leak, we know only too well who'll get the blame.)

Gloves undergo our special leak test. While shoes face the equivalent of hundreds of miles of marching in the wet before receiving our 1 year footwear guarantee.

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There are no prizes for guessing. (And no forgotten stitch holes.) For total waterproofness, every seam is sealed by a specially invented process using GORE-SEAM® tape.

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Seam taping field tests also show that where flexing is concerned, our strong, watertight seams are over ten times more durable than those of our nearest competitor!

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Only the best face fabrics meet our standard. And every single yard of GORE-TEX fabric gets 4 separate inspections.

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# Tories accuse Labour of concealing policy costs

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives charged back in their assault on Opposition policies yesterday with Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, accusing Labour of keeping silent about the costs it would impose on taxpayers in local government.

The Conservatives also predicted that they would capture several Labour seats in London at the election, including that of Ken Livingstone, the former GLC leader.

Mr Heseltine said that the new tier of regional authorities proposed by Labour would cost £270 million a year. Also, Labour had

pledged that £2 billion in extra funds would be made available to local authorities in the coming financial year, the equivalent of an extra £60 on every community charge or of a penny added to everyone's income tax.

abolishing the uniform business rate and putting business rates back into the hands of local authorities would mean there was no limit to the increases which could be imposed on the business community by high-spending authorities, he said. By ending capping, a Labour government would ensure that every council in the country would have a blank cheque.

Mr Heseltine said that the average community charge in England was £80 higher in Labour controlled areas than in Conservative controlled ones, after taking into account the effects of the area protection grant. The difference was £60 in metropolitan boroughs, £80 in the shire districts, and £130 in London.

Nine of the ten areas with the worst community charge collection rates were Labour controlled, with one independent. Several Labour boroughs "suspected of being among the worst offenders", such as Lambeth, Southwark, Liverpool and Manchester, had not filled in the forms from which the list was compiled.

On Labour's proposals for replacing the poll tax, Mr Heseltine said: "We hear they plan a new type of property tax with a whole range of values taken into account – capital values, rental values, insurance values, rebuilding costs. And, just for good measure, their spokesman in the Lords, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, has added a link to household incomes. For each and every home, for each and every person liable to pay, two separate calculations."

At the same London press conference, Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said that Labour's record of high tax, waste and poor services in local government would ensure that the Conservatives won seats from Labour in the capital in the general election.

In recent council by-elections in Hackney and Lambeth, he said, there had been swings from Labour to Conservative of 20 and 23 per cent. He listed as Labour's vulnerable seats Tooting (Tom Cox), Newham South (Nigel Spearin) and Brent East (Ken Livingstone).

Mr Kinnock condemned the planned council tax replacement for the poll tax as a "messy tax" cobbled together by Mr Major and Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. He said that Labour's "Fair Taxes" scheme would relate to people's ability to pay, would stop evasion, be cheap and efficient to administer, improve the accountability of local government and give value for money as well as value for people.

## Forgotten medieval hall gains new lease of life

BY PETER DAVENPORT

DOWN a narrow alley off historic Stonegate in the centre of York, dwarfed by the imposing bulk of the Minster, Paul Simons and his team of carpenters are following in the footsteps of craftsmen 600 years ago to recreate a forgotten medieval building.

More than 520 pieces of oak timbers, 47 of them rescued from the original 14th century construction, have been manhandled onto the site in Coffee Yard before being hoisted into place on a specially constructed crane, with only 1.5m between surrounding walls and the largest, swinging beams, 26ft long and weighing 1,900lb.

The project has been more than a year in the planning, from research and selection of trees to prefabrication off site and now assembly. The three-storey section under construction is the oldest part of a great timber-framed house, now known as Barley Hall, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries.

Built as a monastic hospice for Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, it was later leased as a residence to wealthy York citizens.

Despite its location in York's centre, the hall had been forgotten for several centuries. Over the decades, poor quality brick additions and makeshift repairs had disguised its age and nature. By the 1980s, it appeared to be no more than a run-down plumbers' workshop, due for demolition.

Only when a conservation architect, Russell Wright, examined the building was its significance recognised. In 1987 it was bought by the York Archaeological Trust. Paul Simons, a director of McCurdy and Co, of Reading, Berkshire, a specialist in the care of timber-framed buildings, was engaged for the reconstruction. It built the frame at its factory before each section was transported to York. Assembly began last week and the timber skeleton should be complete by early next week.

Paul Simons, a director of McCurdy, says that its carpenters have learnt much about the skills of their medieval predecessors. "It is a

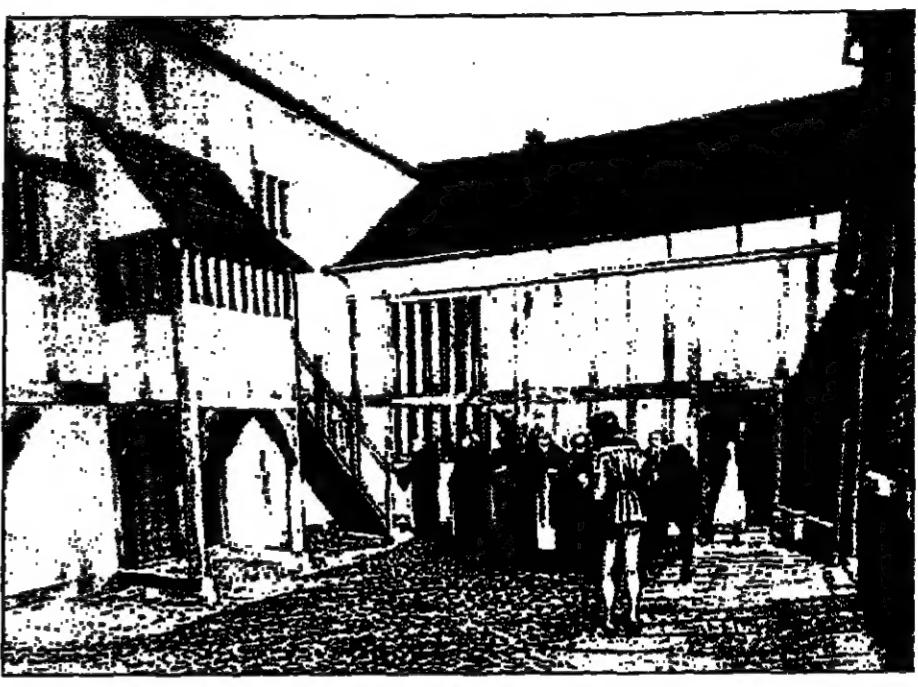


Back to the future: workmen planing timbers, above, for reconstruction of medieval Barley Hall, York, in artist's impression below

very restricted site to work on, just as it was in their day and in many ways we are following the same construction methods," he said. "The main difference is that they would have hoisted the large sections above ground with a block and tackle while we have imported a special crane from Italy."

The building is being assembled with 25 types of joint, the same as those used by the earlier carpenters, and reinforced with 1,500 oak pegs.

Restoration of the outer shell of Barley Hall, including its later two-storey section, is due to be completed by late spring. York Archaeological Trust intends to make the building a working medieval household for visitors, but that part of the programme depends on the success of a £1.2 million appeal.



## Anti-EC group to contest seats

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of a group opposed to a federal Europe yesterday described John Major as the most incompetent prime minister since the war.

Alan Sked and Tim Hedges, who will stand against cabinet ministers in the election, accused Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, of destroying the Tories' record for competent financial management and defence of the national interest, by signing

for closer European unity. Launching their campaign at a Westminster press conference, the two men announced the first three candidates to stand for the Anti-Federalist League. Thirty-six more candidates are expected to be announced soon. They will stand in seats, usually marginal, where all the other contenders support the Maastricht treaty.

Dr Sked, professor of history at the London School of Economics, will contest Bath where Mr Patten, Conservative party chairman, has a 1,412 majority. An open letter to the voters accuses Mr Patten of deriding Britain's independence.

Mr Hedges, a business consultant, will stand in Bristol West against William Waldegrave, the health secretary, (majority 7,703) and Rodney Atkinson, a merchant banker, will fight Hexham (Tory majority 8,066). Dr Sked said that the league was expecting to field a candidate in Wallasey where Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, has a majority of 279.

Although Dr Sked denied that his candidates were disaffected Tories, they are likely to split the Conservative vote. He said that he had talked to Margaret Thatcher about his election challenge and said that the former prime minister had not tried to dissuade him from fielding candidates.

Treaty signed, page 9

## Timeshare curbs nearer

BY JOHN WINDER

TIMESHARE companies that use high pressure sales tactics to coerce customers into signing agreements may be forced to allow a 14-day "cooling off" period. Any operator not informing buyers of this right to cancel would face fines of up to £2,000.

The Commons yesterday gave an unopposed second reading to the timeshare bill proposed by Andrew Hunter, Conservative MP for Basingstoke. With support from the government and the Opposition, the bill could go through Parliament before the election, although it may be superseded by European Community legislation. Mr

Hunter said that there were over 10,000 complaints a year and that the behaviour of timeshare companies varied from the unethical to the edge of fraudulence.

Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, said: "A substantial minority of sellers of timeshare have used methods which by any standards are unethical and are unacceptable and threaten to bring the whole industry into disrepute. It is right that Parliament should step in and call a halt. The government is offering its full support."

There was a gap in trade descriptions legislation on misleading indications to consumers' accounts.

consumers, which the government intended to plug after a general review of the Trade Descriptions Act, now in progress. His department received more complaints about timeshare than any other industry.

□ A bill intended to crack down on cheque frauds completed its passage through the Commons yesterday and stands a chance of becoming law. The private member's bill, sponsored by Conal Gregory, Tory MP for York

who believes it would prevent millions of pounds being lost to thieves who transfer cheques into "laundry" accounts.

## Lawyer in court on £4.5m theft charge

A solicitor appeared in court yesterday accused of stealing £4.5 million from clients. Philip Englefield, aged 48, is alleged to have taken the money over two years when he was a senior partner with a firm in London.

Mr Englefield was arrested at his home in South Kensington, west London, on Thursday. He faces seven charges of theft, false accounting and deception relating to money missing from customers' accounts.

He was remanded on bail by Bow Street magistrates, central London, after his mother agreed to put up a £50,000 surety. He was ordered to surrender his passport.

## Aids virus man accused

A man with the Aids virus has been charged with attempting to harm seriously a policeman by spitting blood at him. The man, aged 21, is accused of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm and with causing actual bodily harm to Detective Constable Neil Nugent of Chelsea police station, west London.

The man of Chelsea, is also charged of having unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor. He cannot be named for legal reasons. He was remanded in custody by Horseshoe Road magistrates, central London.

## Killer jailed

A driver who killed two men as he overtook on a pedestrian crossing was jailed for two years and banned from driving for three years by Stafford crown court. Peter Willets, aged 23, of Tipton, West Midlands, admitted causing death by reckless driving.

## Low turn-out

A primary school with 270 places opened on a new estate at Hamilton, Leicester, for just 13 pupils yesterday. David Axton, the head teacher, blamed the recession for slowing sales of houses on the estate.

## Rabbits offside

The Walberswick village football team in Suffolk, has been given a £1,500 council grant to help to pay for a fence to keep burrowing rabbits off the pitch.

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## Woman deacon accuses gay clergy

BY RUTH GLENDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN deacon in the Church of England has accused homosexual priests in the London diocese of promiscuity. She also suggests that much of the opposition to women priests comes from homosexual clergy. Church leaders are concerned that as the final vote on the ordination of women approaches in November, the debate will descend into mudslinging.

The Rev Nerissa Jones, curate at St Botolph's, Aldgate, central London, says in a television programme to be broadcast tomorrow that more than a third of London priests are homosexual and few are celibate. "Many congregations would be quite appalled to know that a couple of nights a week their vicar, dear Father So-and-so, is actually coming about London. It would not be good. It is not a godly life." Mrs

Jones added this week: "As a heterosexual grandmother and clergymen, I talk to many people about their private lives, and often find that if men cannot openly accept their homosexuality they are more likely to be antagonistic to women."

The London diocese led the opposition to women priests under its former bishop, the Rt Rev Graham Leonard. The new Bishop of London, David Hope, opposes the legislation but, unlike some of his junior bishops, encourages the ministry of women deacons. In the same edition of the BBC1 series *Everyman*, Dr Hope describes a "considerable degree of homophobia" in the church and society.

The bishop speaks of "clear and high standards expected of sacrifice and discipline" on the part of homosexuals and heterosexuals. "Christians ought to be affirming the value and dignity of each and every human being 'created in the likeness and image of God.'

The Archdeacon of London, the Ven George Cassidy, said: "There are many people who appear to be of a homosexual inclination who are bitterly opposed to the ordination of women. It is true that they have a preponderance in the London diocese."

"The new bishop has breathed a marvellous new breath of fresh air and spiritual vision into the diocese. It will be rather sad if people with their own agendas, motivated for whatever reason, try to develop new polarities and mudslinging."

Richard Kirker, of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said: "There are undoubtedly more lesbian and gay clergy in London than in any other diocese. You cannot with credibility argue for the ordination of women and not homosexuals, or vice versa."

Naked truth? *Weekend Times*, page 3

## Islamabad seeks renewed US aid

# Pakistan confesses bomb capability

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF



Gates: CIA was aware of nuclear potential

PAKISTAN has for the first time admitted that it has the components and expertise to assemble at least one nuclear bomb.

Marking the first time a Pakistani official has publicly acknowledged the extent of the country's nuclear programme, Shabir Khan, the senior official at the foreign ministry in Islamabad, told *The Washington Post* in an interview published yesterday: "The capability is there." The interview was conducted after Mr Khan assured American officials that his country would not explode a nuclear device or sell the technology to another country.

He said that the components in Pakistan's possession included "elements which, if put together, would become a device". These included potential weapons cores fashioned from highly enriched uranium. Mr Khan said that he was acknowledging the extent of Pakistan's nuclear programme in order to close "credibility gaps" arising from past official denials of attempts to develop an atomic weapon.

Distraught of those denials led the US Congress in 1990 to order a ceiling of some \$573 million (£318 million) in aid to Pakistan. Mr Khan said leaders of the government, which came to power in

India or Pakistan maintains assembled or deployed nuclear bombs. But such weapons could be assembled quickly, and both countries have combat aircraft that could be modified to deliver them in a crisis".

The International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday that four of its high-ranking officials had been invited by Iran to discuss Tehran's nuclear programme amid reports that it is also seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The officials had left for Iran on Thursday and were expected to hold talks with Iranian officials and visit known nuclear research sites in and around Tehran.

"They are there for discussions but if the Iranians want to take them someplace for a look then they'll do this," said David Kydd, an agency spokesman. Diplomats said Iran might be trying to use the visit to dispel Western concerns about its nuclear weapons ambitions.

October 1990, had decided to set the record straight in an attempt to win a resumption of American aid.

He said that he had not been told how many nuclear devices could be assembled from the components, but added that his government last year permanently froze production of new weapons cores. Destruction of the existing cores is one of Washington's conditions for resumption of aid, but Mr Khan said that Pakistan would destroy them only if India did the same.

Robert Gates, the director of the CIA, told a Senate hearing in Washington on January 15 that "we have no reason to believe that either



Team spirit: President Aquino and her presidential candidate, Fidel Ramos, the former defence minister, acknowledging supporters at a rally in Manila yesterday. The three-month campaign begins in earnest today, and at stake is not just the question of who will succeed Mrs Aquino, but also 17,200 posts from national to village

presidential candidate — even while on trial for more than 50 criminal charges. Mrs Aquino is stepping down after six years in office. She says her democratic reforms are completed. Her candidate is pitted against Ramon Mitra of the Philippine Democratic Struggle party and Eduardo Cojuangco, a Marcos sympathiser.

## Li returns to hero's welcome

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON  
IN PEKING

LI PENG, the Chinese prime minister, was given a hero's welcome on his return to Peking yesterday after his first trip to the West since the suppression of the democracy movement in 1989.

His name is closely linked with army repression, being the man who declared martial law in 1989 and who raged in public against the pro-democracy students. But Mr Li's increasingly prominent international profile makes it unlikely that the Communist party will feel it necessary to remove him from the post of prime minister. Shortly after the Tiananmen Square massacre, Chinese and foreign analysts had expected him to be made a scapegoat.

Local television reports of his travels did not mention that he had encountered criticism of his country's human rights record throughout the tour, which included attendance at the United Nations Security Council summit. Also omitted was that protesters had forced him to cancel talks in Barcelona.

## Cabinet minister challenges clergy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S fundamentalists are facing a challenge to their power, both from within the government and the new look liberalised army. The moves are intended to reverse a trend towards greater Islamisation that has gone on for more than 40 years.

Exasperation by the hardliners has grown after an Islamic court's ruling that all financial transactions must be conducted without charging interest. This would render the banking system unworkable and practically wipe out foreign investment. It would also disrupt the work of international aid agencies.

Two banks, one government-owned, have appealed to the supreme court against the ruling, which is due to be implemented in June. Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali, the minister of state for economic affairs, said this week that in the meantime there would be deep uncertainty, damaging Pakistan's economy.

"Questions about this ruling are being asked by foreign investors," he said. "For the first time, Pakistan has a chance to break out of its isolation and open its doors to free-market forces and integrate with the world economy, but this court decision could take that chance away."

He said it was time to challenge the fundamentalists,

ists, who wielded power far beyond their electoral mandate. "Parliament, the administration, the civil service and the army are all fed up with them. This represents a remarkable change for Pakistan. The die is cast; there is no going back now."

Sardar Asif said Pakistan's change of policy over Afghanistan amounted to a rejection of the fundamentalist position. Pakistan had started to make "rational decisions rather than fundamentalist decisions".

Sardar Asif, who recently toured Central Asia, said there had been concern there that Pakistan had backed fundamentalist mujahedin groups in Afghanistan. The republics felt that President Najibullah represented the forces of progress in Afghanistan, and should be supported.

The army is now headed by a liberal, General Asif Nawaz, who seems determined to reduce the influence of the fundamentalists. Much of their power was institutionalised by President Zia, the former dictator. Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, who wants to promote Pakistan as a modern, economically liberal Islamic state, will have to move cautiously to prevent a fundamentalist backlash.

## Vietnam sticks to the old red road

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HANOI

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world seemed to fall apart for Nguyen Phuong Minh, a Communist party of Vietnam ideologue and holder of the Order of Anti-American Resistance. "It was a nightmare, a hurt and a sadness for those who believe in communism, especially for Vietnamese communists," she said.

"We grew up on the Soviet experience and the assistance from the Soviet Union during our wars of liberation. Suddenly it was not there any more."

This week the country celebrated the 62nd anniversary of the founding by the late President Ho Chi Minh of the Indochinese Communist party, precursor of the Communist party of Vietnam. Red banners strung across main streets in Hanoi proclaiming "Long Live the glorious Communist party of Vietnam" mingled with decorations celebrating Tet, the lunar new year festival.

There is something anachronistic about the Marxist slogans. At the same time, nobody is saying communism is going to disappear in Vietnam overnight. "We have to

think in what way we will have to renovate the party and our country," said Vu Hien of the authoritative *Review of Communism*.

"Only by this can we assure the realisation of communism in Vietnam."

His disappearance of Soviet and East bloc aid of £880 million is a blow, but Vietnam has been exporting rice since 1989 and oil revenues are on stream. "Many older people still can't believe what happened," said a younger official. "They suddenly lost their point of reference. Younger party members are more pragmatic. They don't see it as the end of the world."

With market-oriented economic reforms under the "renovation" policies instituted in 1986, living standards are rising. People have money in their pockets to buy Tet flowers, food delicacies and alcohol. "Tactical flexibility and the ability to make concessions saved the party," said one diplomat. "By and large most people in Vietnam are better off than they have ever been. It's the best (time) Tet people in Hanoi and most of the country have had in their lives."

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## Defence casts Tyson in role of rampant sexual predator



Washington: described as sexually aware

TWO weeks into his rape trial, Mike Tyson allowed himself a few grim smiles yesterday as he listened to lawyers casting him as a rampant sexual predator whose approach to women is about as delicate as the smash and grab of the caveman in old cartoon strips.

The boxer, who faces a possible six decades in an Indiana prison if convicted, was savouring the considerable irony because the damning portrait came not from Greg Garrison, the swaggering prosecutor, but from Vincent Fuller, the boxer's own counsel, and his multimillion dollar team. In an odd reversal of roles, Tyson the primitive brute has emerged as the main weapon of the defence in Indianapolis. For three days they called a stream of beauty contestants and members of the boxer's entourage to report on his courtship techniques. The

The black versus black trial is failing to ignite the powerful public passions of the Kennedy Smith case, writes Charles Bremner from Indianapolis

point was to show that Desiree Washington, a competitor at the Miss Black America pageant last July, fully knew what was in store when she visited the boxer's hotel room at 2am.

On his side, Mr Garrison has taken on the implausible job of casting the pugilist as a civilised fellow whose rough manner with beauty queens was just a Brooklyn version of cocktail party banter. This argument helps diffuse suspicion that "she asked for it".

A single image has loomed over the tiny court for days, bolstered by a videotape broadcast on national television: this was Tyson's ill-fated visit to the contestants

at the pageant, an event that seems to have been less a publicity stunt for the boxer than a sexual shopping expedition. "Mike was basically prancing the moves on the contestants... he was grabbing their bottoms," Johnnie Gill, gospel blues singer and friend, told the court yesterday. Miss Virginia described how the boxer cursed her when she refused an invitation, offered in front of the other contestants, to have sex with him. Ms Washington, aged 18 and apparently less "streetwise" than the other contestants, was the only one to offer her telephone number.

When Tyson grabbed the

behind of a contestant and said: "A kiss will do, but sex will be better," this was just his way of breaking the ice, according to Mr Garrison, a freelance "hired gun" prosecutor whose loud "Aw shucks" cowboy-style has visibly begun to grate on the nerves of Judge Patricia Gifford. Tyson's sexual invitation was allegedly made to Tanya Trainor, who told the court yesterday that the boxer used profanity in the vernacular sense. "Like when he said he was going to talk with the other girls, he said to me 'I'm going to go and \*\*\* with them'."

"You mean he was twice and polite and congenial?" asked Mr Garrison. "Yeah," said Ms Trainor, who said she admired the respect the boxer showed for the contestants. The beauty queens have poured acid on Ms Washington's image as the wronged maiden, reporting

her as money-hungry, sexually aware and scornful of what she saw as Tyson's low intellectual wattage. But Mr Garrison has managed to blunt the damage by extracting from all of them a vision of her as starstruck before Tyson's celebrity.

The boxer's own testimony, the most-awaited event in the trial, could radically alter events, but in the view of the platoon of retired judges and trial experts the chance for the jury has been narrowed to a moral dilemma. Since it has been established that Ms Washington led the boxer on, can they convict him and send him to prison purely on her word that she refused her consent once she was sitting on the bed?

Perhaps America has tired of the endless public feeding over "date rape" or perhaps the racial element and lack of television coverage has muted the impact of the Tyson

trial. But it has so far escaped the dimension of national psychodrama and soap opera which rose from the prosecution of William Kennedy Smith. Instead of an American parable, it is being viewed as something of a grotesque sideshow and relegated to the ghetto of the sports pages of those newspapers which are reporting it.

Black commentators see racism rampant in the disdain shown by America at large, but they are also upset over the sordid images emerging from a black-on-black case. "I don't like all those white guys sitting in judgment," said a spectator in Indianapolis, referring to the whiteness of all lawyers, the judge and all but two jurors. "They aren't qualified to judge us like that."

Unease over race was visible in the pained expression of Mayor Stephen Goldsmith of Indianapolis when

## Autonomy change by Shamir

**Jerusalem** Israel yesterday appeared to be distancing itself from its previous commitments to offer Palestinians autonomy in the occupied territories under the Camp David accord of 1978 (Richard Beeston writes).

The apparent shift in policy was set out by Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, in an interview published yesterday, in which he backed away from the provisions of the historic peace agreement.

"We are not obliged to every word written there. Time has passed and things have changed," said Mr Shamir, who defended his position by adding that "generally we are bound by what we say".

The remarks are possibly intended to ease right-wing concerns about the autonomy plan before the June general elections in Israel.

### Bread aid

**London** Britain has announced a £5 million project to reform Moscow's baking industry. The work is to be carried out by Andersen Consulting in association with companies including Rank Hovis McDougall, J Sainsbury and British Airways.

### Curbs lifted

**London** The Co-ordinating Council for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) has lifted all restrictions on trade in high technology and militarily sensitive goods with Hungary, but has kept bans on such trade with Poland and Czechoslovakia.

### Muslim unrest

**Algiers** Violence erupted in at least six Algerian cities yesterday in a defiant challenge by Muslim fundamentalists to hundreds of troops and riot police. Algeria's collective presidency has banned gatherings outside mosques. (Reuters)

### Arson enquiry

**Hong Kong** The government here is to launch an independent enquiry into this week's arson attack at a camp for Vietnamese boat people in which 22 people died. Sir David Wilson, the governor, said the enquiry would be conducted quickly. (Reuters)

### Payng out

**Majuro** America is paying almost \$11 million (£6.1 million) to Marshall Islands residents suffering from thyroid tumours, radiation exposure and cancers caused by US atomic tests, according to a report by the nuclear claims tribunal. (Reuters)

### Youth recovers

**Minneapolis** An American teenager who dialled for help with a pencil clenched in his teeth after his arms were cut off in a farm accident showed how he can now move the reattached limbs. Doctors said John Thompson would go home in two weeks. (Reuters)

### Webbed feet

**Sydney** An Australian office worker survived being bitten by a deadly funnel-web spider after he had walked around for more than three hours with it in his shoe. Doctors said the cramped spider could not unleash its full dose of poison. (Reuters)

### Skin divers

**Vancouver** A Canadian group plans to host nude bungee-jumping into a river in spite of threats of prosecution. Bungee-jumpers dive with their ankles bound by a strap attached to rubber cord, stopping short of the ground. (Reuters)

### Focus shifts from Third World agenda

## Top UN jobs go in pro-Western move

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A WEEK after a United Nations Security Council summit called on Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to revamp the organisation, he announced sweeping changes yesterday that left blood on the carpet.

Dr Boutros Ghali made deep cuts in the upper echelons of the top-heavy UN secretariat, moving the focus of UN activities away from the Third World agenda of economic development onto the West's concern with political and security affairs.

Fourteen of the 48 UN officials in the top two tiers of the secretariat — the ranks of under-secretary-general or as-

sistant secretary-general — lost their jobs. Many departments were abolished or combined in what a UN spokesman said was only the "first stage" of the restructuring.

Dr Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian, ignored a much-touted plan put forward by an informal group of 30 UN ambassadors, led by Australia's Peter Wilenski, which envisaged the creation of only four second-tier posts.

But the changes in the secretariat were the most drastic in many years, rivalled only by the so-called "Hallowe'en massacre" of 1986. Almost all the economic departments were condensed into a single

department of economic development, which is to be headed by Ji Chenzhu of China. By contrast, the political and security role of the organisation was reinforced.

The peacekeeping department run by the highest-ranking Brian in the UN system, Marrack Goulding, was strengthened with the addition of a new deputy. The assistant secretary-general, Kofi Annan of Ghana, will help Mr Goulding manage the huge expansion in UN peacekeeping operations, soon to include the despatch of thousands of troops to Cambodia and Yugoslavia.

The UN peacemaking role, previously a task of the secretary-general's own office, is to be devolved into two new political departments likely to emerge as the powerhouse of the United Nations.

One of the two new departments for political affairs will be headed by James Jonah, an under-secretary general and a long-serving UN official from Sierra Leone who ran unsuccessfully last year for election as secretary-general. He will be assisted by Giandomenico Picco, the UN trouble-shooter who was promoted late last year after securing the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon.

The other political department will run by Vladimir Petrovsky, a former Soviet deputy foreign minister who used to head the UN division of the Soviet foreign ministry. A noted innovator, Mr Petrovsky is expected to play a key role in drafting the report on reshaping the UN requested by John Major and the other leaders at last week's summit.

The two new political departments are expected to assume the key functions of early warning and arms control identified by the security council summit last week. Two established UN officials are also likely to emerge as key players in UN reform. Jean-Claude Aime, a Haitian, the leading UN Middle East specialist, was named as Dr Boutros Ghali's chief of staff. He was not, however, promoted to under-secretary-general, the rank held by the present incumbent, because Dr Boutros Ghali did not want him to emerge as a clear second-in-command.

Alvaro de Soto of Peru, who negotiated the recent El Salvador peace accords, will serve as the secretary-general's senior political adviser. The top-ranking American at the United Nations, Ronald Spiers, saw his department of general assembly affairs abolished.

## Peking tails media 'spies'

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

MOSCOW'S KGB may be at a loose end but Peking's State Security Bureau is keeping busy spending a huge amount of time, petrol and manpower following foreign journalists. It is not unusual

to create fat, fact-packed files which might prove useful if the bureau wants to make a case against a certain journalist, or one of their Chinese contacts.

The authorities also know they cannot control what the foreign press prints in the same way they control Chinese editors and they believe foreign journalists are spies.

The State Security Bureau tries to trap journalists with offers of secret

documents for sale. I met a man who claimed to be an army officer. "My nephew wants to go abroad to study," he said. I thought to myself how can I, a simple army officer, make money? Then I thought I can sell state secrets. Would you like some army documents?" It was not clear whether he was a simple-minded bureau officer or just plain simple-minded.

Further from the capital, official paranoia becomes even more intense. Foreign journalists are banned from leaving Peking to report on other areas unless they win provincial approval first. Even areas that are designated "windows to the world" will refuse permission and some officials are very imaginative. I was told by Tibetan officials that I could not go there because there was "too little oxygen".

Why does the bureau bother so much? Partly to

documents for sale. I met a man who claimed to be an army officer. "My nephew wants to go abroad to study," he said. I thought to myself how can I, a simple army officer, make money? Then I thought I can sell state secrets. Would you like some army documents?" It was not clear whether he was a simple-minded bureau officer or just plain simple-minded.

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# Liberals act to counter fascist rise in Russia

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW's streets will echo this weekend to the sound of chanting demonstrators for the first time since the August coup, as pro-Western reformers and orthodox communists compete in an atmosphere of political ferment.

Yelena Bonner, Andrei Sakharov's widow, and a host of distinguished liberals have lent their support to a rally at the White House, the parliament that last summer became a symbol of Russian democracy. Organisers hope

that at least 70,000 members of Moscow's "middle class in waiting" — those well-educated and Western-oriented people whose peaceful protests helped oust the Communist party — will turn out to denounce the re-emerging spectre of totalitarianism.

The rally will hear warnings about the "red-brown" menace: the prospect of an unholy alliance between old-style communists and Russian nationalists, cemented by nostalgia for authoritarianism and suspicion of all things Western and Jewish. Liberals acted after communists threatened a "march on the White House" in protest against the break-up of the Soviet Union and the hardship brought by economic reform. The Russian Communist Workers' Party has since been told by the city council to switch the venue of its demonstration to Manezh Square, outside the Kremlin.

Both the rallies will hear denunciations of Russia's new elite — figures from the communist establishment who, in the name of "privatisation", are carving out lucrative positions in Moscow's new stock and commodity markets. The communists want "direct control by working people" of "hard currency ... obtained by the financial plundering of state enterprises". The liberals want the "former communist *nomenklatura* capitalists" to be replaced, with a more level economic playing field open to foreign and Russian players.

They argue that without transparent, rapid procedures for privatisation, wildcat seizures by opportunist bureaucrats are more likely. Activists such as Vladimir Bokser, a doctor and mastermind of Moscow's middle-class protest movement, think that of the two parts of the "red-brown" menace, the "brown" or neo-fascist one is more dangerous.

A congress of "patriotic forces" is expected to be addressed by Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president of Russia, and other Yeltsinites who have recently donned moderate nationalist colours. The congress will demand a tough line against Ukraine, which yesterday rejected calls by Russia's parliament for the Black Sea Fleet to remain united under the Commonwealth of Independent States. Delegates will also call on Russia to pursue its own economic interests in dealing with other republics.

On Thursday, President Tudjman of Croatia sent a letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, unconditionally accepting the plan, which could lead to the deployment of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force in the Serb-controlled territories of Croatia. According to Mr Vance, this has left Mr Bokser and his government as the last obstacle. The UN Security Council was voting yesterday on a resolution declaring that no peacekeeping force would be sent without the agreement of Mr Bokser's government.

The Krajina problem is expected to come to a head on Monday when its parliament gathers to discuss the UN plan and Mr Bokser's referendum proposal. He said that, considering his government's bitter opposition to the existing UN plan, it would now be amoral for it to accept it without consulting the people.

Last Monday, after a grueling 40-hour session involving Krajina leaders and representatives of the old Yugoslav federal presidency and the Serbian government, Mr Bokser complained that he

and his colleagues had been subjected to "police methods and political torture" in an attempt to get them to accept the UN plan. Desperate to disengage from the Croatian war, Serbia has accepted the Vance plan but has so far failed to secure the agreement of the people it most directly concerns.

Under the terms of the plan, Krajina is to be demilitarised, the Yugoslav federal army withdrawn, and UN troops are to be stationed throughout the mainly Serb-inhabited territories of Croatia.

Mr Bokser has insisted that his men should not unilaterally disarm and that UN troops should be placed along the front line. On Sunday night, Mile Paspalj, the leader of the Krajina assembly, made a sudden about-turn and agreed to the plan. The Krajina government then issued a statement saying he had no authority to do so.

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## Clifford Longley

### Annulment is badly handled within the Catholic Church

The King's Matter was not really about divorce but about annulment. Henry VIII did not say that he should not have married Katherine, but that he had not married her, whatever the legal formalities said to the contrary. So the marriage never existed at all, and Anne of Cleves, not Katherine of Aragon, was truly his first wife. If he had not then scuttled his way through a veritable harem, history might even have believed he meant it.

It is difficult to make sense of the logic of his "divorce" without adopting a metaphysical view of a marriage as something that exists as an independent entity — or did not exist, according to Henry's petition against Katherine. The medi-evals thought there was a real but invisible bond between husband and wife, something with an objective reality apart from what they felt about it or even what the law said about it. Whether Henry was married to Katherine was a fact, like a scientific fact, waiting to be discovered; and one cannot make a scientific fact untrue simply by denying it or passing a law to say so. A decree of annulment is not supposed to make a marriage null, but to describe what is already the case.

This remains the theory of marriage used in the Roman Catholic Church, where annulment cases are being heard at the rate of something like two thousand a year in England and Wales. The church does not recognise divorce (nor does English law recognise Roman Catholic annulments), yet curiously, the church tribunals refuse to entertain a case until a civil divorce has been obtained in the English courts. But the level of satisfaction among those who resort to this remedy for marriage breakdown may be no better than Henry's. It is a system needing reform.

Recently *The Tablet* publicised the grievances of one dissatisfied customer of the English Roman Catholic marriage tribunals, and this has drawn letters from others. It has also published a response from a canon lawyer who practises in the tribunals. Clearly the intention of the lawyers is sympathetic and compassionate. None the less their effect is secretive and frustrating. Above all, the tribunals have little time for the principle that justice must be seen to be done. The consistent complaint seems to be that people are offered neither information nor explanation as their case goes through the works. At the end they are bewildered and alienated, hardly able to tell whether they have had justice or not.

A highly detrimental comparison can be made with secular courts, where lawyers are expected to keep clients in the picture and to act only on instructions. In church annulments the canon lawyers have taken over the initiative completely, or so the client is wont to feel. And the lawyers are all priests, so the deference due to an expert is compounded by the deference due to the priesthood. But deference is no bar to resentment.

The flaws in the church annulment process are nowadays of this kind rather than the more infamous abuses of the past, when annulments seemed to go mostly to the rich, titled and privileged. Today's tribunals make no charge to those who cannot pay. Only the few cases which have to be referred to Rome are subject to long delay. And the theory behind annulment has acquired a respectable basis in the contemporary psychiatric understanding of marriage, such as the research of Dr Jack Dominicino into marriage breakdown.

Then there is the psychodynamics of a "valid" marriage turn out to be so different from those of an "invalid" one that the tribunals now routinely accept psychiatric reports as evidence. Above all, the tribunals have recognised that the capacity to make a lifelong commitment demands a degree of maturity not every person possesses. So some "marriages" which fall never stood a chance: were never, so to speak, marriages at all. The tribunals, if satisfied that this is the case, will declare such a marriage a nullity. There are lessons of wider application here.

But the canon lawyers must look to their procedures if they want to regain the confidence of the people they serve. English Catholics will not happily accept a lower quality of justice from their own church courts than they are used to in the civil courts. Indeed church courts should be striving to do even better.

Roman Catholics make up 10 per cent of the population, and so probably nearly 10 per cent of the total 150,000 divorces a year. With only two thousand annulments a year being considered, it is clear that many ignore the church's tribunals. Nor do those who attend tribunals sound content. That is hardly a vote of confidence.

As Maigret returns to the screen, H.R.F. Keating explores what makes a detective great

A detective hero perhaps second only to Sherlock Holmes for looming presence is about to occupy our television screens once more. Maigret will come to us not in the guise of Rupert Davies, whose wall match-scratching and sucking pipe-lighting must live in the memory of almost everyone of viewing age in the 1960s, but in that of the excellent actor Michael Gambon.

Like Sherlock Holmes Maigret is much more than the protagonist of a number of well-told tales. He is one of the Great Detectives, a figure not to be confused with the huge mass of fictional sleuths who have provided easy entertainment for readers by the million. No, here we are speaking of nothing less than a powerful myth.

Edgar Allan Poe, seeking a hero worthy of the Romantic movement, was the originator of this myth-mighty figure. In the pages of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" he laid down the pattern for an investigator of mysteries, using much the same language as Coleridge had employed 25 years earlier to describe the ideal poet — the Great Detective at work, and

fancy to the high reaches of imagination. Poe saw his detective as one capable of throwing himself into the spirit of an opponent, "identifying himself therewith".

The great characteristic of Maigret as a detective is not the employment of scientific method or of the two-fisted approach of the American private eye. It is his ability to puzzle away at the outward features of a murder until he can understand the essence of the murderer. The things that puzzle him are not how the poison got into the teacup or how the weapon was spirited out of the hermetically sealed chamber. He is puzzled by nothing less than the souls of human beings.

Simenon's stories have few of the ingredients generally thought of as making for a huge readership. There is not much action or clever investigation. Most of the time Maigret simply moans. But his moaning is the Great Detective at work, and

this, though they may not realise it, is what appeals to readers. It also lay behind the huge success of Sherlock Holmes, a success that spawned all those copycat detectives. But the authors of all but a few of those books failed to see what Edgar Allan Poe had discovered.

They thought that the mere solution of an ingeniously concealed murder was what attracted the reader. It was not. It was the hint of an answer to a much greater mystery, the mystery of what other people are made of when read and read.

Maigret bears all the hallmarks of the Great Detective, even down to the characteristic way of arriving at the solution to an apparently insoluble mystery in a trance, in which the rational and the intuitive are combined

in a fusing flash of the imagination. Sherlock Holmes is notorious for the *trance hours* spent in a miasma of tobacco smoke before pronouncing judgment.

Maigret, too, is a formidable pipe-smoker, but he has other forms of trance as well. On one occasion, in "The Crime in the Rue Sainte-Catherine" he soves his mystery by means of a ferocious headcold. In bed, smothered under "a mass of sheets and blankets", the air pungent with the aroma of eucalyptus, he lies for hours, emerging at last with the answer.

Maigret, too, came to know what a truly weighty figure he was, though he seldom allowed the knowledge to appear, certainly not to his fellow flics. In "Maigret's First Case" (not of

course, the first Maigret novel) he thinks that what he would really like to have been was a "repayer of destinies", a sort of *donor* for souls. And in *Maigret and the Headless Corpse*, he claims his ideal vocation, about which he had never told anyone, was to become "a guide to the lost".

How did the young small-time Belgian journalist Georges Simenon, making a living of sorts in Paris by scribbling out 80 pages of fast fiction a day with some 300 stories to his credit under such names as Jean du Perré, Christian Brûlé and Georges Sim, come to make his new hero a Great Detective? Did he know at all what he was doing? The answer, I think, must be that he did not consciously make Maigret a pattern Great Detective. If he had attempted that, he would in all probability have produced a pasteboard figure destined for a life no longer than a Valentine card.

But at the start it was Simenon's astonishing empathy for human beings of all sorts and conditions which enabled him to throw himself into the spirit of such Great Detectives as his chance reading — and he was a prodigious reader — had led him to. And we can be sure he had at some time made the acquaintance of the immensely popular Sherlock Holmes.

That empathy is the quality shared to the full by Maigret and his creator. Maigret is, indeed, the detective as writer. The man who wants to understand. In leading us through the pages of an absorbing story eventually to comprehend the often incomprehensible — murderers, the obsessed, the utterly weak — Simenon, through Maigret, enlarges our understanding of the other. He makes us know those people out there who seem to behave in ways altogether contrary to our own. This is what all the Great Detectives do. They attempt to solve the mystery of the human personality.

H.R.F. Keating is president of the Detection Club. Maigret begins tomorrow, 8.45pm on ITV

## A sleuth in a million



Rupert Davies: the 1960s Maigret

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polling the voters took place in public. Violence was commonplace.

Candidates in rough seats, if wise, were protected by hired gangs of thugs. They dominate the action of Hogarth's "Chairing the Members", one of a famous series immortalising the relatively issue-free but nonetheless lively general election of 1754. "The Polling" depicts a droling human being prompted to cast his vote, and a corpse supported by two minders also waiting its turn, while a war hero is reused, offering to swear on the Bible with a hook, not a hand. "The Election Dinner" leaves nothing to the imagination in its depiction of gluttony and corruption.

In the 18th century, petitions against corrupt returns were heard and decided by the Commons itself, voting on flagrantly partisan lines: Whig majorities would unseat Tory MPs on Whig petitions and vice versa. Political management became steadily more effective: by 1800 the price of a borough seat, to an outsider, might be £5,000 (at a time when an artisan's annual income might be £50), and even the political classes felt the strain.

Yet this steadily increasing investment in seats and relish for satire meant also an increasing commitment to parliamentary government. Men would not have paid so much to buy their way into a House of Commons that was ineffective or irrelevant. As the historian Sir Lewis Namier pointed out, no man bribes where he can bally. Paradoxically, the corruption of a system can also be an index to the freedom of the society which sustains it.

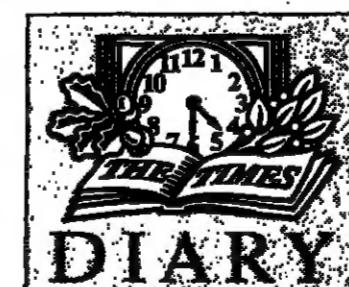
Hanoverian Englishmen developed a wry affection for the electoral machinery, despite (or perhaps because of) its warts. Perhaps the appetite of today's public for a good smear or a juicy scandal is still the biggest barrier to parliamentary reform. If so, this may be cause for confidence.

A lunatic is taken to cast his vote in 1754, a detail from Hogarth's "The Polling".

Stuart archives nevertheless. In Paris during the summer vacation of his second year at Christ Church, Murray had written to the Old Pretender's secretary with a gift of money for the cause and a promise of allegiance. "The chief end I would propose from my studies and education, and the greatest glory I can aim at, is to be able to serve his Majesty James III in any way

that he pleases to command me." This letter ticked away beneath his career like a timebomb. He was not alone.

The hustings were still worse. Dr Johnson called the general election a "saturnalian season". With electoral registers not introduced until 1832 and no secret ballot until 1872, the whole cycle of canvassing, entertaining, establishing tide and



### Curbed crusader

HOLY SMOKE! Labour's latest poster campaign, featuring stormin' Norman Lamont as the dreaded Batman, has been zap-ped by Warner Brothers.

Pow! When Warners, which owns the world rights to the Batman image, saw the posters, it threatened Labour with legal action for alleged breach of copy-right of the caged crusader.

Biff! David Hill, Labour's boy wonder and communications director, realised he had met his match. To avoid litigation, Labour agreed to make a £200 donation to his charity.

Kerpow! The charity nominated in Mencap. The Joker's hand must have been in this one. Mencap just happens to be the favourite charity of John and Norma Major.

Ker-anch! It may be purely coincidence, but the charity, presided over by chairman Lord Whitehall (who was made a life peer by Major only last month) is concerned. The prime minister's wife, who only last week attended a fundraising event at the charity, is chairman of Mencap's Huntingdon branch. Is the charity being used in a piece of cheap political propaganda?

Ach, as in pain is one of our more tiresome spells. Until Shakespeare's time the noun was written and pronounced *achick*, and the verb *achike*. This is a common pattern of differentiating nouns from verbs, as in *speech/speak*, *stench/stink*, *stich/stick*. In a rich niche of language, *achic* as both verb and noun adopted the spelling of the noun, but the pronunciation of the verb. Dr Johnson made things worse by erroneously deriving the noun and verb from the Greek *achos*, with which they had no connection, and deriving "more grammatically" written "ache".

It does not make English spelling or pronunciation easier. But we were not sent into this world to have an easy time.

While the Queen's party at the royal gala performance of Don Giovanni at Covent Garden on Monday will not be spared the sight of the naked lady reclining on the Don's dinner table, one change has been made to save the royal blushes. As Thomas Allen sings "O Bello Plato," licking his lips in anticipation of the unusual fare on his table, the translation "what a tasty dish" will not appear in the English surtitles. The opera house feared too much, titillating in the royal presence, it seems.

### Turn up for the book

MARGARET FORSTER, who is currently working on a biography of Daphne du Maurier, has come across her most important find yet. She has just received from America a 40-page ruled account book, in which the finely written pencil script begins: "They used to hang men at Four Turnings in the old days." It is the opening line of *My Cousin Rachel*, and the notebook contains the first chapter of du Maurier's novel. Further pages contain an outline for the rest of the plot and snatches of dialogue.

A happy ending: the charity is richer. Warner Brothers are content, and the posters stay where they are. Tune in next week, same time, same place. More thrilling episodes to come before polling.

erica quite by chance and American universities would be drooling over it. In Britain it is the done thing to sneer at du Maurier. People think because she can't be any good, she can't be a bestseller she can't be any good.

### Late converts

THEY may have had a starring role in the Book of Acts, but until now the Macedonians have been unable to read the Good Book in their own language. Now, in one of the more unusual consequences of the break-up of Yugoslavia, the Bible is to be translated into Macedonian — the 1,978th language in which the book will be

In the beginning was the СЛОВОТО...

available. Rade Siljan, director of the Macedonian Book Publishing House, says the new translation is "a great new beginning for the Macedonian language and culture". Shame that the Macedonian main biblical claim to fame is that they threw Paul and Silas into prison.

### Turfed out

THE Westminster Wobblers is not a football team to set Pavarotti singing. It consists of MPs and their staff, who regard losing six-nil as a good result. The Wobblers were delighted, then, when Manchester United agreed to allow them to stage a charity game before the kick-off in the first division fixture against Crystal Palace on February 22.

Many footballers dream of playing at Old Trafford, so not surprisingly, team captain and Tory MP Alastair Burt, for once had a full squad to choose from. Indeed with an election looming, so many MPs fancied piling on their boots in front of a huge crowd that Burt could have put out two teams.

Unfortunately, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has objected. There was no way a team of clothclapping MPs was going to mess up the precious turf before a crucial game. A compromise has been reached, and the match will now go ahead after the league fixture, meaning that the MPs will play to almost empty terraces. A few of the Wobblers are now threatening to cry off with sprains and strains, but Burt's enthusiasm is undimmed and he has drafted into the MPs' side the most famous name he could think of — not John Major but Bobby Charlton.

"It will be a huge thrill just to walk out on to the Old Trafford turf," says Burt. "To score a goal there would make my dreams come true" — not to mention probably netting a few votes down the road in Bury, where Burt defends a majority of less than 3,000.

• Michael Heseltine made a timely announcement on Thursday, telling the press that the loved towers of Marsham Street, which house the environment and transport departments, are to be demolished. Only last week workmen finished installing new lavatories and redecorating the stairwells and doors on all 19 floors. Yes, Minister could not have scripted things better.

### ...and moreover

## PHILIP HOWARD

*De pronunciationibus non disputandum*. One should not argue about pronunciation. Everybody has a peculiar pronunciation, different from the pronunciations of everybody else in the world. That is how we recognise people by their voices, and why we can measure an individual's phonemes.

Pronunciation is affected by race, class, region, sex, shape of vocal chords, and many other factors, including fashion. The last factor is important. In the 18th century in southern England, it became the fashion to pronounce words like *bath* and *path* with a broad *a* rather than a flat *a* as in Mars. The fashion crossed the Atlantic to Boston and other towns of New England, but did not penetrate further inland. The fashion caught on so firmly in Boston that according to H.L. Mencken, upper-class Bostonians a century ago were giving the smart broad a pronunciation to such improbable words as *apple*, *hammer* and *Saturday*.

Fashion constantly stirs pronunciation, as it does other aspects of language. It has become the fashion to pronounce *nische*, the ornamental recess, in a Frenchified way as *neesh*. This is probably part of the modern tendency to pronounce foreign-looking words in a foreign-sounding way, to suggest that we are polyglot world travellers and cognoscenti.

Until very recently the word was pronounced *nich*, rhyming with *itch*. Here is Swift in *To a Lady*, 1726, indicating his

the etymology, so muddying the waters. It is becoming fashionable to pronounce *dissect* with a long *i* as *dispeet*. That careful scholar and good speaker William Waldegrave did it three times in rapid succession the other day. From this novel pronunciation, lovers of language should disown and disassociate themselves. *Dispeet* is confounded by false analogy with *bitz*, and the new way of saying the word destroys the sounding sound of *ach*, *ach*.

Similar shifts in pronunciation from fashion and ignorance are affecting hundreds of words, from *knicker* and *decote* to *irrevocable*. It is an inevitable and irreversible part of language. It seldom affects the price of vowels. But it can have queer consequences.

*Ach*, as in pain is one of our more tiresome spells. Until Shakespeare's time the noun was written and pronounced *achick*, and the verb *achike*. This is a common pattern of differentiating nouns from verbs, as in *speech/speak*, *stench/stink*, *stich/stick*. In a rich niche of language, *achic* as both verb and noun adopted the spelling of the noun, but the pronunciation of the verb. Dr Johnson made things worse by erroneously deriving the noun and verb from the Greek *achos*, with which they had no connection, and deriving "more grammatically" written "ache".

It does not make English spelling or pronunciation easier. But we were not sent into this world to have an easy time.



## SEX APPEAL

Should the law protect public figures such as Paddy Ashdown from the publication of unsavoury stories about them? The answer is no. Should the law censor tasteless or pornographic material in newspapers or television? No. Should the law ban political bias or unfair reporting, blasphemy or the offending of minorities? Again, no.

Laws have been attempted abroad on all these matters. They do not work. Both the Younger and the Calcott committee opposed privacy laws to control the media. They did so not out of any respect for the dignity of the press or freedom of speech, but because they felt privacy laws were impracticable and unenforceable. They said so although presented with a mountain of self-righteousness and hypocrisy: of gross intrusion justified as 'press freedom', of pornography described as 'integral to the telling of the story', of salaciousness parading as 'fearless court reporting'.

Those outside the press need not sneer. Sexuality remains the most potent of all sales techniques. Advertisers use it. Publishers who tut-tut over the *Mirror* and *Sun* tell their authors to put in more "good bits" and select lascivious covers to sell their books. Film makers insert and then publicise gratuitous sex and violence to help promotion. A clearly desperate Leeds ballet company is promoting a sexually explicit Swan Lake. The BBC recently conjured a ludicrous nude scene into *A Time to Dance* to generate "event publicity". As journalists cloak their voyeurism in "press freedom", so others cloak theirs in "artistic freedom", in "exploring the nature of modern sexuality". Both know their real cloak is a dirty mackintosh.

Sex is the most intimate form of human behaviour and thus the one most open to voyeuristic exploitation. Many people deeply resent the sense of intrusion when forced into such voyeurism against their will. The response of the authoritarian liberal is simply to say: tough on them. Just as public figures can choose not to enter the heat of the kitchen, so the private person can throw away the newspaper, reject the book or turn off the television. Freedom of speech is the freedom to cause offence. Such intolerance in the name of tolerance is usually highly partial: it excuses sexual and verbal obscenity but not religious or racial offence.

The right to shock at will is not one that society has ever recognised, if only in the interests of public order. Again this, artists, writers and journalists have felt some obligation to push out the boundaries of awareness, of investigation, of experience. They seek to reveal man's inhumanity to man just as they wish to alert society to its own glories and failures. Shock is one such technique. Yet there soon may come a time when, otherwise *la femme* goes one formication too far; when the nation replies to media excuses with a loud sarcastic laugh. Then the nation's elected representatives may turn the laughter to anger and anger to action. Legislation, censorship and control would follow. Such laws would have to extend beyond the press to broadcasting and the arts and even contemporary history. They would be clumsy and unfree. The only way of averting them is self-restraint on the part of all concerned.

In the past month, most news organisations have genuinely agonised over how to handle an extraordinary series of news stories. From the Anita Hills, Kennedy Smith and Bill Clinton sagas in America to those of Robert Maxwell and Paddy Ashdown in Britain, newspapers have had to judge, within the laws of libel and contempt,

## WEIMAR RUSSIA

"I can already feel the breath on our necks of those who wear the black and the brown shirts," Boris Yeltsin said in Paris. The spectre of Weimar is haunting Russia. Civil order is breaking down. Inflation races inexorably ahead. Crime is rising and the black market dominates daily life. Anti-semitism is on the rise and anyone making money is denounced as a criminal and exploiter of poverty. Parliamentarians impotently argue over their frustrations, ministers bicker among themselves, and the communist old guard, bitter at being "stabbed in the back" — the *Dolchstoss* of Nazi mythology — foments unrest and plans its revenge. All the ingredients for a fascist coup are in place.

President Yeltsin would be its first victim. His government would be swept away, the hated price rises cancelled, the freedom of the press and newly won democratic rights suspended, liberals arrested and the entire reform process of the past six years thrown hard into reverse. It is the worst scenario that Nato and the West can imagine. That is why President Yeltsin speaks out so often and in such apocalyptic terms. He is attempting the same blackmail as President Gorbachev: unless the West comes to his aid immediately and massively, he will be overthrown by the forces of darkness.

He is exaggerating. A military coup still looks unlikely. Fascism is not an organised political force in Russia. President Yeltsin still retains broad support and popularity. But his warnings must be taken seriously. A dangerous coalition of the disaffected is waiting for a strong leader with a unifying ideology. Even the liberal intelligentsia is being swayed by the appeal of Russian nationalism.

The biggest danger is that Mr Yeltsin rules in a political vacuum. Reformers in Russia have never managed to create a political vehicle, like Solidarity in Poland, for their reforms. The movement known as Democratic Russia was an attempt before the abortive August coup, to set up a cohesive opposition to the communists. Even experienced liberals such as Eduard Shevardnadze, the former foreign minister, realised that it would not work. After 70 years of totalitarianism, Russians have a rudimentary understanding of multi-party democracy but no culture of political compromise to enable a government to tackle the challenges facing it.

Mr Yeltsin has no way of enforcing his reforms. The proscription of the communist party was tantamount to abolishing the entire civil service. Local administrators have

how much their readers really want to know, and how far the boundaries of privacy and public taste should be pushed.

Newspapers are "bad taste" institutions as they are bad news ones. But they still withhold material daily on grounds of taste-intrusive or horrific photographs, explicit court cases, intrusive references to individuals. Newspapers sometimes err, as *The Times* did recently in its presentation of a distressing story from Japan. When selection is made on the spur of the moment and in the heat of the market place, it can go awry.

The Ashdown case has already led the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission to give newspapers a warning on invasion of privacy. He might have added an informal one to broadcasters, who this week rivalled the tabloids in hyping every detail of the Ashdown liaison. *The Times* takes no particular pride in covering a story that it would not have covered had other newspapers not goaded Mr Ashdown and his former girlfriend into public statements. Consistency might have required a blanket self-censorship. But from Monday the news was patently in the public arena and readers would have found total silence extraordinary.

Politicians are reportedly spoiling for confrontation when the Press Complaints Commission's remit comes up for review later this year. Self-regulation is once again at risk. Following the report of the Calcutt committee in 1990, the press accepted a code of conduct on privacy. This code was voluntary and was intended to avoid specious *ex post facto* justifications of the sort much heard in the Ashdown case. While Mr Ashdown might have been seen as fair game, the same could not possibly apply to Patricia Howard (let alone to her predecessor as Mr Ashdown's secretary, who was pursued on her honeymoon). The code of conduct was useless in her defence. Only the most tendentious apologist could claim that last week saw the press in fearless pursuit of an event of great political importance. The media may as well come clean: it was after a salacious scandal and did not mind who got hurt.

The argument against legal restraint of these matters must be restated, albeit with a note of desperation. The basis of any law against vicarious intrusion is that, while it may be offensive, hurtful and tasteless, it is impracticable to seek to make it a definable tort. A statutory enforcement of the code of conduct, as mooted by Calcutt, is vulnerable to the same weakness: the terms of the code would have the force of law, requiring precise definition. Intrusion into privacy is ultimately a matter of taste. Matters of taste make bad law, witness those on blasphemy.

But there soon may come a time when, otherwise *la femme* goes one formication too far; when the nation replies to media excuses with a loud sarcastic laugh. Then the nation's elected representatives may turn the laughter to anger and anger to action. Legislation, censorship and control would follow. Such laws would have to extend beyond the press to broadcasting and the arts and even contemporary history. They would be clumsy and unfree. The only way of averting them is self-restraint on the part of all concerned.

be left floundering. The ensuing chaos is compounded by separatist forces not only in the republics, now independent countries, but in autonomous regions in the sprawling Russian Federation. Some Muslim areas, such as Checheno-Ingushetia and Tataria, have already "declared" their independence. Others in the Far East are turning their backs on Moscow and trying to set up regional fiefdoms.

All agree that only tangible evidence of economic progress — or at least a halt in the downward spiral — will give Mr Yeltsin a chance of security. Mr Gorbachev failed because he did not say how long change would take. Nor did he have the nerve to begin the scale of economic reform that would have delivered the goods. His failure has made more formidable his successor's task, as Russians are now deeply cynical about the market economy. They insist, wrongly, that there was more food in Leningrad during the wartime siege than in St Petersburg today. Such false but widespread belief is corrosive to democracy.

Only the West can apparently bring hope to the Russians. But airifts of food will not bring plenty to the shops. In the long run such aid is destabilising, ruining local initiative, upsetting emerging markets and breeding dependency and resentment. But it does show that the world cares. In the longer term, Russia needs new factories in green fields, operated efficiently by Russians under Western management and turning out products that are not controlled by the nebulous mafia or reserved for the privileged.

Massive Western investment in the country is not commercially attractive. Without it, however, no amount of know-how will stave off riots in the big cities. Western governments must support investors with export guarantees, and in perhaps 30 years they will yield a return. Unlike Africa, Russia has abundant riches and an educated population. It was once a hugely productive industrial state. Yesterday's agreement in Paris on an extra \$650 million in credits is welcome, but nothing like enough.

Emergency blood must be pumped into Russia's arteries within the next two or three months. Only organisations such as the International Monetary Fund can do so on the scale required. Britain has rightly been arguing this to its partners for weeks. Yet even now the rest of the West seems unconvinced of the need. The world knows well what came after Weimar. Mr Yeltsin may be unscrupulous in drawing such parallels. But he is not crying wolf. That animal is already at the door.

## Press coverage of Ashdown affair

From Mr Timothy Atkinson

Sir, The probable fact that a majority of electors do not consider adultery a relevant factor in deciding how to vote does not mean that there are not others who, quite properly, take a different view. A newspaper is probably entitled, perhaps even under a duty, to put information which it believes to justify an allegation against an elected figure before the public, to make what they will of it.

It is not, however, the reporting of such revelations in themselves which is of concern to society. What matters is the manner in which the media choose to report such revelations: the risk of hounding a politician from public office simply by virtue of injurious coverage in the sensationalist press cannot be justified.

Newspaper editors should consider the need for amending their code of conduct, so as to encourage properly restrained and responsible reporting of a politician's sexual misdemeanour, and thus to allow voters to decide for themselves its impact on their attitude to the politician in question.

Yours faithfully,  
TIMOTHY ATKINSON,  
1 Brick Court, Temple, EC4.  
February 6.

From Mr K. R. Rollinson

Sir, Your third leader today denigrates Fleet Street's justification of publicity as weasel words. Not so.

Past performance is a factor in assessing future performance. If a candidate (for a job or political post) conceals his past, how can the employer or voter make a proper assessment? With full disclosure, the voter can then decide what he considers relevant. No one should do this for him.

The press are the ultimate ferrets to discover and disclose concealed information. Nothing must suppress this essential (the fourth) freedom. If what is disclosed is not true, then the law of libel is available.

Yours faithfully,  
K. R. ROLLINSON,  
Orchard House, Arlington,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.  
February 6.

From Mrs E. E. Armstrong-James

Sir, I have never voted for Mr Ashdown's party but I am tempted to do so now. We should be asking our candidates how they would administer the country — not how they spend their leisure time.

Yours faithfully,  
ENID E. ARMSTRONG-JAMES,  
Bridge Cottage, The Street,  
Woodton, Bungay, Suffolk.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, If Paddy Ashdown's private life is at variance with his crafted public image then the public have a right to know and make of it what they will. He has no grounds for complaint.

The woman involved, however, has committed no crime and is not in public life. By what right did the press so threaten her that she felt obliged to appear before them for public flagellation?

*The Times* also felt that her face and name should be known to us all. How tactful of you to put the photograph on page 2, but why did you publish it at all?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE THOMAS,  
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.  
February 7.

From Mr R. E. Engel

Sir, It is ironic that Mr Robin Cook was making political capital out of a leaked NHS document (report, February 6) at almost the same time that Mr Ashdown was undergoing his ordeal. I do not accept that there is a difference between publishing confidential information stolen from a solicitor's office or from the files of a ministry.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. ENGEL,  
The Old Posting House,  
Welford Road,  
Chapel Brampton, Northampton.  
February 6.

From Mr James Johnson

Sir, I was interested to read your speculative report (January 29) on performance-related pay for hospital doctors. Clinical excellence should clearly be rewarded and this is what the merit award system attempts to do. Managers, however, would seek to give performance-related pay for meeting managerial targets and this is not always the same as clinical excellence.

For example, there may be a managerial target to admit patients with varicose veins who have been on the waiting list for a long time. This in turn might mean a few weeks' delay for cancer patients who have not been on the waiting list for long. The clinically correct decision might be to deal with the cancer patient, for whom a delay of even a few weeks might mean the difference between life and death, but the doctor who chose to treat the non-urgent case would be rewarded by extra pay.

Moreover, I find it scarcely credible that the government would aim to reward junior doctors for working

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046. February 4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Avoidance of any professional foul

From Mr Brian Grainger

Sir, This society has recently updated its application to the Privy Council for a royal charter, having felt for some time that the "closed shops" to which you refer (leading article, February 3) are not in the interests of the consumer. A second chartered body in the property profession would be of considerable assistance to our members' clients in Europe and elsewhere.

Our confirmed policy does not restrict membership to graduate entry only. We are very keen to uphold standards, but nevertheless take the view that the GCSE-level entry requirement is not only relevant for the late developer, but also provides opportunities for the early school-leaver to change direction in mid-career.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN GRAINGER  
(Professional services consultant),  
The Incorporated Society of Valuers  
and Auctioneers,  
3 Cadogan Gate, SW1.

From Mr D. J. Ferro

Sir, Not only is there, in my view, no "undesirable protection of professional privilege" for engineers of the sort which you indicate for the other professions; there is even a distinct class feeling that bright young men and women should turn their talents to those other professions.

The best young brains are encouraged to go into medicine, law, the Services, accounting, the City and architecture. Not so in Germany, America, Japan, Sweden, Finland — countries of which I have

recent personal experience. The social status of an engineer in those countries is every bit as high as that of the doctor or barrister.

Your sincerely,  
D. J. FERRO,  
Medlar Cottage, Houghton Road,  
Stockbridge, Hampshire.

February 3.

From Mr J. R. Wilkins

Sir, Your leading article extols competition as a spur to efficiency. It might be of interest to you to know that there are no longer fee scales among chartered building surveyors for professional work. Most work is obtained as a result of competitive fee tendering and, at present, this is exceeding competitive (leading article, February 3).

Whether it be a royal preview or Princess Margaret with a cup of tea in one hand and a bun in the other, chatting easily in a Brixton back garden to mothers and children attending our day centre there, that support is irreplaceable.

Any suggestion that the role should be undertaken by some transient president, constructed from the decaying remains of a former politician (successful or otherwise), leaves me wholly unconvinced.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER PURTON,  
Deputy President,  
Family Welfare Association,  
501 Kingsland Road, E8.

February 6.

From Mr R. P. G. Neville

Sir, Almost without exception, our monarchs have been remarkable for their ordinariness. This is surely as it should be: they are indeed the mirror in which we can, and should, perceive ourselves. We are a nation of ordinary people who are sometimes called upon to do extraordinary things when we respond magnificently. Yours faithfully,  
R. P. G. NEVILLE,  
2 St James Place East,  
The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon.

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, Your leading article today refers to Her Majesty's return in February 1952 as being from a holiday in Kenya. In fact Princess Elizabeth, as she then was, was in Kenya as the first stage of a Commonwealth tour, which was to include Australia, undertaken in place of her father, King George VI, whose failing health made such a tour impossible. The princess was in Kenya on important duty. It is unfair to suggest that she would have gone on a lengthy and distant holiday at a time when her father's health was so precarious.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
BOYD-CARPENTER,  
House of Lords.  
February 6.

From Mrs Conrad Natzio

Sir, Is it right that the state, these days, should continue to make heavy demands on people who are expected to shoulder the consequent burdens solely because of their inheritance?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGINA NATZIO,  
The Barns, Slip Road,  
Thurton, Norwich, Norfolk.

From Miss Lorna Billinghurst

Sir, The royal family certainly do not live "normal" lives — we don't let them. Yours faithfully,  
LORNA BILLINGHURST,  
10 Park Terrace, Cambridge.

Weekend Money letters, page 24

### The ageing process

From Mr Martin Kay

Sir, Why do different elements of the European Community impose different age requirements upon applicants for jobs of similar professionalism and experience? For example, the European court has specified 42 as the ceiling for administration/translation specialists, whereas the Commission insists on 35.

The sad thing is, as we count down to the qualifying date for unrestricted movement of people, that there continues to be imposed any age limits upon their employment prospects.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN KAY,  
8 Elm Grove, Swainswick, Avon.

longer hours when it has recently gone to such lengths to reduce their time on duty.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES N. JOHNSON  
(Deputy Chairman, Central Consultants and Specialists Committee),  
British Medical Association,  
BMA House,  
Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Mr Chris Spy

Sir, You ran a report (January 6) about the possible inter-relationship between private health insurance cover and the formula for NHS funding of district health authorities. There is certainly an interesting issue as to whether funding formulae should be simple or complex and the story was successful in highlighting that. However, in one crucially important respect the report was inaccurate. South West Thames Regional Health Authority has



## OBITUARIES

## SIR GARETH CLAYTON

Air Marshal Sir Gareth (Thomas Butler) Clayton, KCB, DFC and bar, a former air secretary and second world war pilot, died on February 5 aged 77. He was born on November 13, 1914.

"TUBBY" Clayton could well have been dubbed the great survivor. He led raid after raid against Hitler's Reich in the last war, crash-landed at least half a dozen times (once while flying through thick fog to his daughter's christening) and was even fired on by his own side while over Dunkirk. Yet Clayton came through it all without a scratch.

He was operational almost as soon as the second world war started, leading a daylight reconnaissance mission over the Ruhr. All three Blenheimis of 107 Squadron from RAF Waddington got back unscathed. But on the next similar sortie all crews were killed. Clayton's survival was by no means entirely due to luck. In May the next year he won the DFC for leading raid number 309 against a heavily defended enemy occupied airfield at Stavanger, Norway. Intercepted by a Messerschmidt-110 on the return flight, Clayton dived to sea level, made use of the cloud cover and dodged the avenging Luftwaffe so successfully that the German eventually gave up and went home, leaving Clayton to return to base, mission accomplished.

Later that year his navigator was severely wounded when Clayton's Blenheim was



riddled by shrapnel after bombing a bridge at Maassricht, in the Netherlands. The fuel tanks spouting out fuel, his wing flaps and undercarriage irreparably jammed, Clayton somehow managed a crash landing on his own airfield. But they had to cut open the cockpit with an axe to lift out the wounded navigator on a stretcher. In January 1941 Clayton switched to being a night fighter pilot with 25 Squadron equipped with Beaufighters. Clayton ruefully wrote later that he managed to write off "three of His Majesty's Beaufighters" without ever seeing a German aircraft.

His most testing time, however, was still to come. This was the period 1943-44 when he found himself assigned to heavy bombers, first with 100 Squadron, then with No 576, a new Lancaster squadron which Clayton, now a wing commander, formed under his command at Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire. Clayton was clearly sensitive to the destruction they were causing as he took part in the huge waves of allied bombers now nightly filling the skies over Nazi Germany.

In the account which his family is publishing as a posthumous tribute to him he graphically describes the holocaust below. Krefeld "bubb-

ling like a volcano" for example; or the seven-hour sorties to Berlin culminating in a 20 minute ordeal as they passed over the packed air defences surrounding the German capital. Clayton's reward was a bar to his DFC with a citation praising his inspirational leadership which had turned 576 Squadron into one of Bomber Command's most effective units.

Yet Gareth Clayton had originally joined the RAF because at the time he could think of nothing better to do. Born at Llandudno into a family which had once owned coal mines in North Wales, he did not go to school until he was nine. His own father was a mining engineer with Rio Tinto and young Gareth spent much of his early life abroad — mainly in Argentina and Spain, where he learned to speak fluent Spanish without an accent.

He returned to this country for schooling, but left Rossall, Lancashire, with nothing more illustrious than the scripture prize. Unable to think of a career he would like to pursue, he started to take private flying lessons to fill his time and then was persuaded by an uncle, himself an RAF officer, to join the service.

His first class Spanish, however, was no fluke. He found he was endowed with a natural gift for languages, eventually adding French, Portuguese and German to his armoury. Perhaps this was why he filled a succession of overseas posts after the war. In 1945 he went to China, to Cheng Tu in a remote area on the Tibetan border, as part of a six-man RAF training team requested by Chiang Kai-shek. He went to the British embassy in Lisbon as air attaché. He commanded RAF Cottesmore, then RAF Honington before going to SHAPE in France to join the plans and policy division.

He was director of RAF transport for overseas operations in the early 1960s, which involved among other things briefing the cabinet during the first Kuwait emergency. He commanded number 11 group in Fighter Command, 1962-63, served as chief-of-staff in the Second Allied Tactical Airforce, Germany, and was then briefly chief-of-staff at RAF Strike Command. Between 1966 and 1969 Clayton held the appointment of director of personal services in the RAF before being made air secretary in 1970. He retired two years later.

Gareth Clayton was not entirely safe in peacetime. In the early 1950s while serving on the staff of Bomber Command at High Wycombe he was taken up by a pilot in a Meteor fighter trainer. The pilot unfortunately forgot he was no longer flying a Canberra and got the stalling speed wrong in consequence. The plane crashed on its port wing-tip in a field. The cockpit broke off from the blazing wreckage and tobogganed across the field to land upside down in a hedge. Clayton, however, once more climbed out more or less unharmed.

Although he walked with the help of a stick, his hip injury was sustained in peace-time Germany, trying to outskate youth half his age on a frozen pond. The injury which landed him in hospital did not prevent him from flying Lightnings up to the end of his RAF career. Gareth Clayton married Marian Keates in 1938. An icing sugar model of his first aircraft, a Hind biplane, adorned their wedding cake. His wife died, however, 18 months ago and he is survived by their three daughters.

Laura May Kendal, actress and mother of two daughters, Felicity and Jennifer, who followed in her footsteps, died on February 5 aged 83. She was born on May 8, 1908.

IN ADDITION to rearing her two actress daughters — Jennifer, who died in 1984, and Felicity Kendal — Laura Kendal had a pivotal role in the Shakespearean touring company she and her husband, Geoffrey, ran in India and which was immortalised in the film *Shakespeare Wallah*. As well as being the company's leading actress, she designed the sets and costumes, making extraordinarily effective use of limited resources. She also had to be mother not only to her daughters — both of whom served their acting apprenticeships in the company — but also to the young and often inexperienced company members.

During a wartime ENSA tour the Kendals fell in love with India and returned a year after the war with their own company. The tour was cut short by the struggles of India's independence. But in 1953 the Kendals and Shakespeareans were back and the company did not disband until the 1950s. Thereafter Geoffrey and Laura continued to tour with two-handers show. As late as 1965 they were a main attraction at a theatre festival in Bombay.

The company took Shakespeare to the Indian hills in the way that Sybil Thorndike and Lewis Casson took Macbeth to the Welsh valleys, bringing the English classics to two generations of Indians. While Geoffrey drummed up the bookings in schools throughout India, she made sure the company arrived at each destination looking immaculate, despite having sometimes travelled Indian rail, third-class.

With dusty banches rather than couches, broken lights and inadequate fans, train conditions were likely to have arrested the enthusiasm of all but the most determined western travellers. The venues were often many miles from the railway station, entailing a further journey with the wardrobe baskets and portable props, by country bus or lorry. The charge for admission was one rupee (about 8p) and it was sufficient to sustain the cost of a 12-strong company. They depended for their audiences mostly on undergraduates and discovered that Indians had an insatiable appetite for Shakespeare.

The novelty of a band of Europeans appearing with wigs and swords in areas where previously the only Englishmen seen were tax collectors and police superintendents may have accounted for some of their success. But Shakespeare was the main attraction. Tamils, Madrasis, Bengalis and Punjabis, who were first introduced to the plays as subjects to be trusted before passing the Senior Cambridge examination — a necessary scholastic

## LAURA KENDAL



achievement for a government clerkship — yielded happily to Shakespeare when it was brought to their town by such an adventurous English company.

Born and brought up in the Lake District, as was Geoffrey, the young Laura Liddell was already a well regarded actress in the Edward Dunstan touring company when the future couple met. In his autobiography, *The Shakespeare Wallah*, Geoffrey describes the first time he saw her at a rehearsal: "She had a pointed chin and a round face, deep brown slanting eyes and a rounisse nose that made her look almost oriental, and an air of enormous vitality...Never had I seen a more lively woman, or a more interesting actress. Laura was incredibly individual and made every part she played intriguing..."

## CHRISTOPHER SKELTON

Christopher Skelton, printer, typographer and publisher, died on February 1 aged 66. He was born on September 3, 1925.

THOUGH a skilled printer and designer, Christopher Skelton's period of greatest creativity had full reign only from the time of his foundation of Skelton's Press in 1961.

Educated at Bablake School, Coventry, he took a degree in English at Oxford. Skelton sought to carry on a family tradition: his uncle was Eric Gill, the wood engraver, type designer and printer. Skelton went to learn to print from Gill's son-in-law, René Hague. He worked for the next 17 years in the Midlands and engaged in the commercial jobbing work which can be so profitable, and often so very dull. He had, indeed, to buy himself a small treadle-plate press for use in the cellar at home in order, he said, "to save his soul". When the firm he was working for was bought up, he decided to use money that he had inherited from an aunt to found Skelton's Press. Fifteen years later he sold it and went into partnership with his former assistant, Alan Bultitude, to print, without any other staff, the September Press.

At both the Skelton's Press and at September they were able to lead a double life, printing pork pie labels on the one hand, fine books on the other. Two calligraphic books by David Kindersley

appeared in the early years. *The Death of Hector*, René Hague's version of a text from the *Iliad*, followed. This was elegantly set in Dante typeface, with drawings by Peter Cawelti, reproduced by offset. He printed the catalogues for Christopher Hewett's Tararaman Gallery, London, which were designed to a

particularly high standard, poetry for the Sceptre and Enitharmon Presses, and much else that sits with quiet ease on the shelves of the discerning.

In 1979 he printed an illustrated catalogue for an exhibition of wood-engravings,

*Shall we join the Ladies?*, and was much impressed by

particular high standard, poetry for the Sceptre and Enitharmon Presses, and much else that sits with quiet ease on the shelves of the discerning.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, four sons and three daughters.

Turks never set foot in Dubrovnik, dissuaded by a handsome annual tribute. Dubrovnik's survival intact became the more important after the total destruction of Zante to the south, the "Venice of the Ionian Sea", by an earthquake in 1953 which levelled churches, palaces and colonnades. In recent years Dubrovnik's national monument status had ensured that modernisation was carried out with extreme care.

Every window was shattered. There is no electricity, no water, not even any plastic to put in the windows to keep out the bitter cold. The roofs of many buildings, including important monuments, have collapsed, making many smaller streets virtually impassable.

Enlisted in Peter the Great's Imperial Russian Navy at the age of 22, Bering led two major expeditions to the easternmost reaches of Russia and beyond.

The front of the 15th century Rector's Palace, the most

important single monument in Dubrovnik, was perfectly preserved walled in.

It was here that successive leaders of the little republic lived amid pomp and ceremony during their month of office. The Franciscan monastery, the Dominican monastery and St Saviour's church have all been severely hit.

In what was one of the most perfectly preserved walled cities in Europe there is hardly a building that has not been damaged by shrapnel, according to the Croatian organisers of the South Bank exhibition. One of them, Melina Davies, said: "Dubrovnik was Croatia's Florence. The cradle of much of Croatia's literature and art."

Brilliant diplomacy ensured that for centuries the city was free from attack. The

exhibition continues at the Level 5 gallery of the Royal Festival Hall until March 5.

Laura could well have made a successful career on her own in the West End, but she resolved when they married in 1933 that their marriage should be a partnership as well, and thereafter they never worked separately. She shared with Geoffrey a love of adventure, and the two embarked on the hazardous life of running an unsubsidiised touring company, taking Shakespeare around England and Ireland, and finally to India and the Far East. They played in village halls and maharajahs' palaces, from the Himalayas to Travancore. Once their lorry of costumes and props was swept away in a flood in Assam, but undaunted they continued their tour of the tea plantations. Both Geoffrey and Laura were brought up in the tradition that the show must go on, and they had an intense love and enthusiasm for Shakespeare which sustained them in the near impossible conditions brought by heat, monsoons, plagues of mosquitoes and, on one occasion, an earthquake. A generation of Indians in their middle years remember their first taste of Shakespeare with the Kendals in the school halls of Doon, St Paul's or Loreto Convent. Indeed, the Kendals greatly contributed to the continuing love of Shakespeare in India today.

The Kendals' elder daughter, Jennifer, remained in India after her marriage to the film actor Shashi Kapoor. Her death in 1984 came soon after her highly acclaimed return to acting in the film *Chowringhee Lane*. This was a tremendous blow for the family, and the festival at the Prithvi Theatre in Bombay a year later was dedicated to Jennifer.

Geoffrey and Laura Kendal flew out to India last year to receive the Sangeet Natak Academy Award for services to the arts in India from the president of India, the first foreigners to be given this honour. Laura Kendal's final visit to India, the land that became her second home, will be made this weekend when her ashes are taken there by her husband.

Young and able colleagues were encouraged to accept new responsibilities or pressed into service from elsewhere; but although Moran favoured innovation and insisted fresh ideas he refused to jettison any of those basic principles on which his discipline was founded. His outlook was firmly rooted in the tradition of the founder of the centre, Sigmund Freud's youngest daughter. Indeed, it was as a student who distinguished himself that he earned Anna Freud's whole-hearted approval, not easily.

For all his dedication to psychoanalysis, he never believed that a sound psychology could be practised in isolation from other disciplines. Connections of an informal and co-operative kind already existed between the centre and the psychology department at University College, and the paediatric, endocrine, and child, psychiatric

the quality of reproduction that he realised was now possible with printing by offset litho from retouched bromides. Prompted by Gill's daughter Joan Hague, and inspired by his own enthusiasm, he now started work on *The Engravings of Eric Gill*, which was eventually published in 1983. For this he had to gather the best prints possible, twice visited America, and was finally able to research at length in the print room at the V&A, which had long been closed. The result was a collection of engravings that fulfilled all expectations, showing almost everything that Gill had cut, the prints carefully related to John Physick's earlier, but ill-illustrated catalogue. Published in a large enough edition, 1,350 copies plus 85 specials, it was possible to price the former at only £110 — and the negatives have recently been used again for a new edition now priced at under £30. It has made Gill's engravings as widely available as he could have wished. In 1988 he printed, again by offset, an excellent reproduction of *The Four Gospels*, first published by the Golden Cockerel Press in 1931 and which included some of Gill's finest engravings. In 1989 Skelton supervised the printing of his final book, a large quarto reproducing Edward Gordon Craig's *Black Figures*.

In 1979 he printed an illustrated catalogue for an exhibition of wood-engravings, *Shall we join the Ladies?*, and was much impressed by

particular high standard, poetry for the Sceptre and Enitharmon Presses, and much else that sits with quiet ease on the shelves of the discerning.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, four sons and three daughters.

## Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mrs Frances Mary Green of Pilverbatch, Shropshire.....£530,377.

Mrs Monica Gladys Hargreaves of Dereham, Norfolk.....£543,348 net.

Miss Violet Irene Quick of Tiverton, Devon.....£584,587.

Mr Robert Frederick James Parsons, solicitor, of Cambridge, Surrey.....£1,024,914.

Mrs Marie Vera Potter, of Lowestoft, Suffolk.....£580,014.

Mr John William Siggins, of Morpeth, Northumberland.....£901,762.

## Meeting

Religious Press Group

Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Convenor of the Religious Press Group, presided at a meeting held yesterday at Woburn House, WC1. Mr Michael Latham, MP, Director of the Council of Christians and Jews, and Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy, Spiritual leader of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, were the speakers.

## GEORGE MORAN

George Moran, director of the Anna Freud Centre, died in Naples, Florida, on January 23 aged 40 of motor neurone disease. He was born on August 30, 1951, in Detroit, Michigan.

His relationship with the specialists and other staff involved were as fruitful as they were friendly; indeed, they had begun when, still a student, he developed an interest in the psychological complications and management of diabetes in children. His work with them earned him a PhD from the University of London. Moran's subsequent work on the subject and related paediatric problems, and his contributions to the literature, were of lasting importance and acknowledged all over the world.

Another field of importance to which Moran devoted time and energy was the study of a typical development and disorder in children — disturbances that defy customary diagnostic categorisations. In this he worked in close collaboration with his colleagues and was responsible for some elegant and influential insights in published studies. He made many other contributions. As long as his health permitted, he spoke and lectured on

departments at the Middlesex Hospital, and Moran worked hard to strengthen them.

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these topics in many parts of the world. In particular, the centre's traditional links with Yale University, established by Anna Freud, were closely maintained to the benefit of both.

His capabilities had for company an engaging, masculine charm, and a ready sense of humour that was sometimes mischievous and, when occasion demanded, tinged with asperity. In private conversation, this could broaden into a satirical wit. He was decisive, though invariably courteous and well-mannered. He was liked by everyone. His broad interests, ranging from philosophy to English literature, made him an excellent conversationalist in all company.

He is survived by his wife, Perrine, and his daughter, Katya.

One of Northcliffe's innovations to brighten the newspaper when he took over in 1913 was to introduce an occasional column on women's clothes. Not even a world war was going to silence the fashion correspondent.

## MILITARY MODES IN PARIS.

By Our Fashion Correspondent

The strenuous efforts of the Paris dressmakers to revive trade are showing signs of reward. During the past week their rooms have been full of American buyers who have bought largely from the new collections which have been prepared under very difficult conditions.

When the mobilisation order came, the male clerical staff in all the big houses simply closed its books, handed over its keys, and went to join the colours. The women in many instances also left their work to be with their men, for in those days the practical side of their nature was completely subordinated by the primitive affection of mother, wife, or sister. Consequently, when business had to be resumed the scattered threads of everyday leaving were not easy to gather together. The male designers were away, the commercial travellers were absent, the silk and cloth merchants were either serving or unable to deliver orders for the want of men and the means of transport. More serious was the fact that the heart of the workwoman was not in her work. To design and make pretty frocks in these days goes against the grain, and if it had not been for the fine common sense of the race, the luxurious trades of Paris would be less flourishing than they are.

It was pleasant to see the women going about their business with that simple French vigour for which they are to be so much admired.

Many of them are in mourning,

# Case against Guinness two is dropped

BY PAUL WILKINSON

CHARGES against two defendants in the Guinness case were unexpectedly dropped by the Serious Fraud Office yesterday after the defence put forward new evidence.

David Mayhew, of the Queen's stockbroker Cazenove, and Roger Seelig, former corporate finance director of the merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell, were formally acquitted of three charges arising from the brewer's takeover of Distillers in 1986.

Their trial would have

would have been the third of

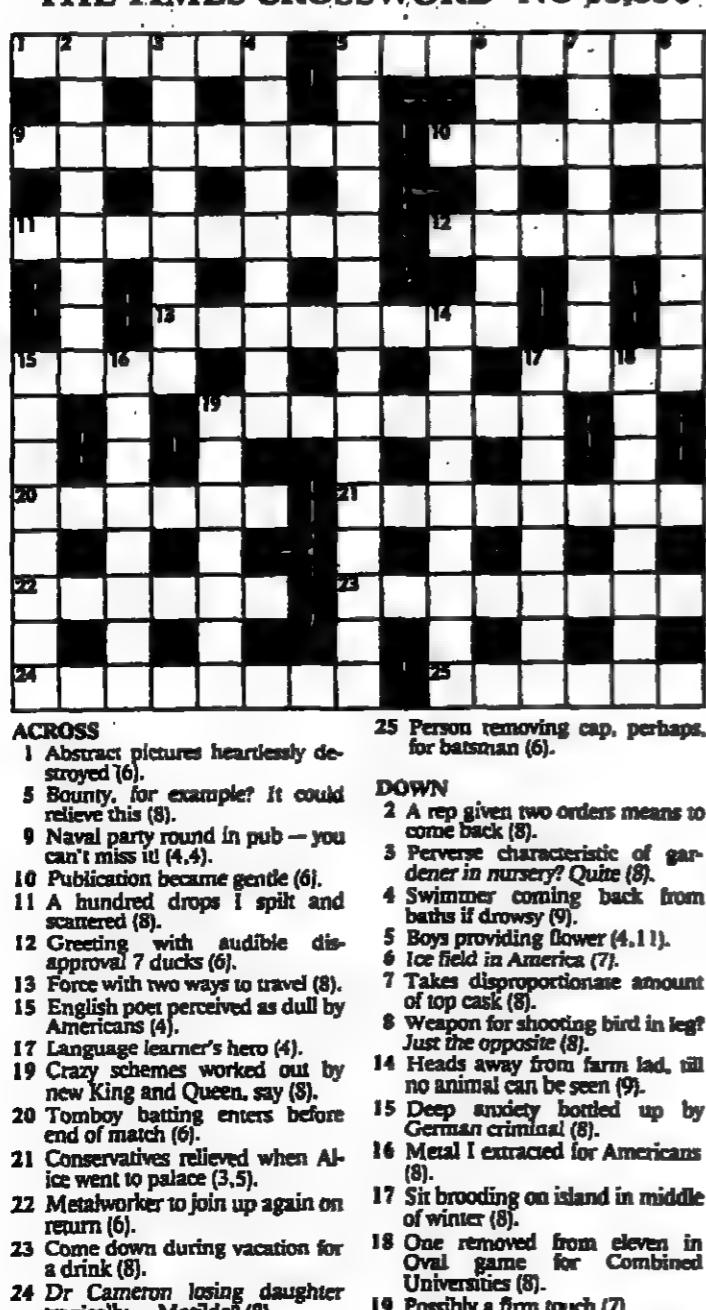
## Bail for break-in case man

Continued from page 1  
dates. Both the accused were given conditional bail to appear again on March 6. Mr Berkowitz was ordered to report daily to Hove police station, lodge a security of £3,000 with the court and keep to a midnight to 6am curfew. He was ordered to surrender his passport, remain at his present address and not interfere with witnesses. His former wife was ordered to report daily to Brighton police station, surrender her passport and not interfere with witnesses.

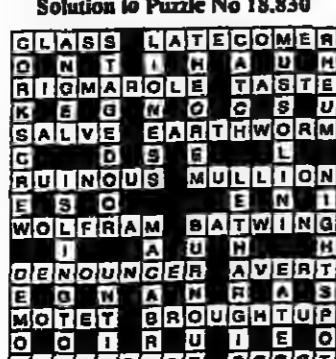
Martin Lowe, solicitor for Mr Berkowitz, said outside the court earlier that his client would be pleading not guilty to both charges, although he admitted having had the document referring to Mr Ashdown. Mr Lowe said: "He admits to having the document in his possession and he has explained to the police... the circumstances in which he had it and what he did with it."

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,836



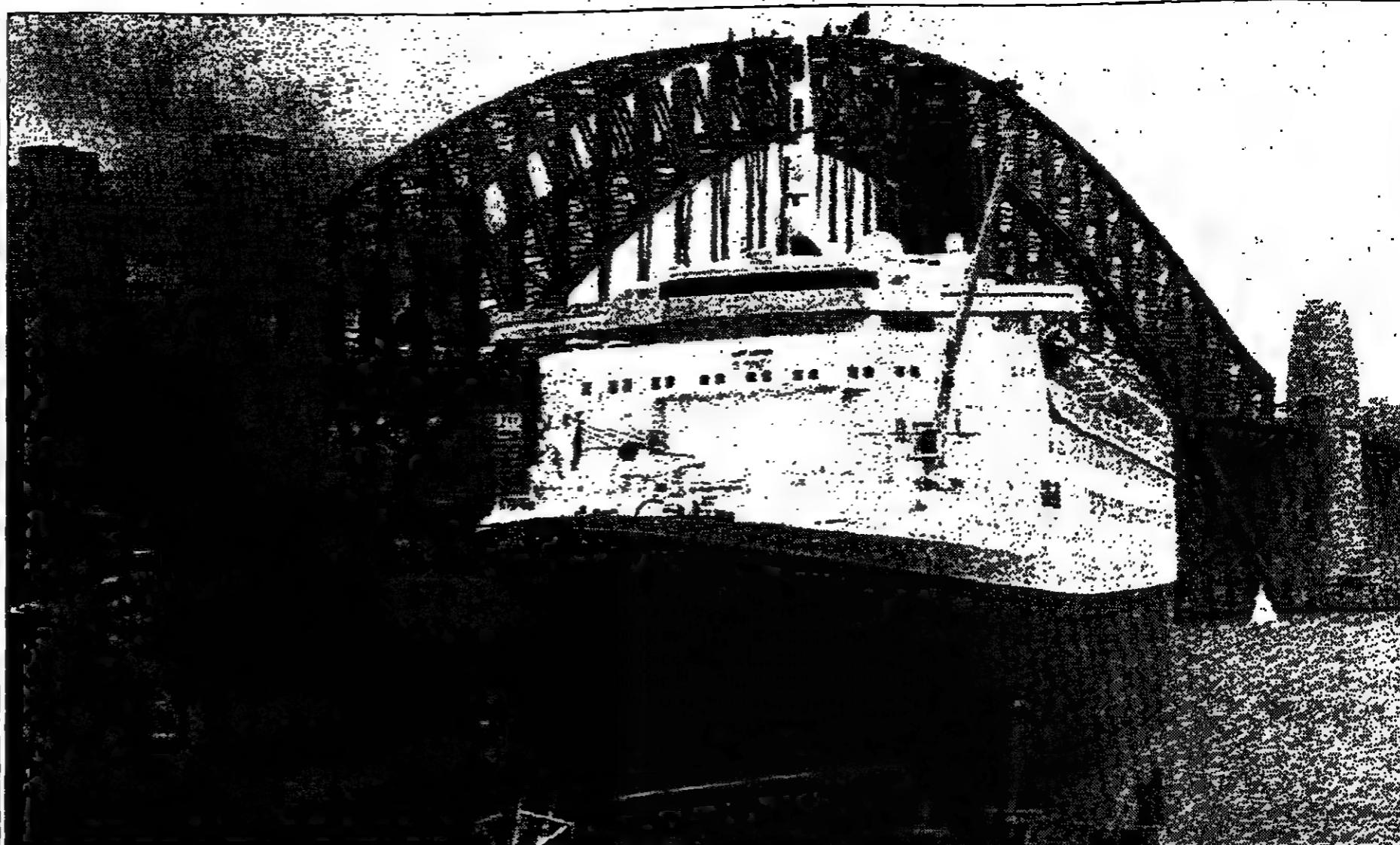
Solution to Puzzle No 18,830



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DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International fountain pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



Greetings from the old country: the liner Queen Elizabeth 2, on a 101-day world cruise, calling at Sydney yesterday to mark the city's 150th anniversary

## 'Dirty tricks' theories gain ground

Continued from page 1

allegedly using a credit rating agency, CCN Credit Systems, to run a credit check on Michael German, the Liberal Democrats' campaign organiser in Wales. He called on John Major to order a full enquiry into the activities of Conservative Central Office.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, also wrote to Mr Patten telling him to "come clean" about checks run by the Tory party. He called for a public guarantee that such practices would stop.

Mr Patten replied that his officials had used a credit rating agency merely to verify a conference application by Mr German's daughter, Lau-

ra. He denied that they had access to credit rating information.

Mr Carlile said: "Mr German is a key voluntary member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats' campaign team. He is a leading city councillor of a very high reputation.

"Whoever carried out this search is guilty of a deplored act of interference with private business. We are calling on them to publicly apologise. This takes political snooping into previously uncharted territory. I will not let mafias rest until those responsible are called to account."

Miss German applied for a pass to the Conservative Welsh conference last year as

part of a group of sixth-form students who wanted to attend for their studies.

The political parties are sensitive about disclosing details of the checks run on applicants, although security at the Tory events is tighter because they are the party in government and are regarded as a more likely terrorist target than either the Labour or Liberal Democrats.

A statement from CCN fuelled the conspiracy theory by confirming that Conservative Central Office had access to its commercial enquiry service. The company gave several examples of the users of that service. They were a builder checking on a pro-

specie client before buying a mass of material; a newspaper checking the credentials of classified advertisers; or a bank checking on directors of a company applying for banking facilities.

A spokesman for the credit rating company said he could not explain why Conservative Central Office used the service. He pointed out, however, that the firm's information had been readily available to anyone through the public library or the registry of county court judgments. A spokesman for the company confirms that a check was run on Mr German of 29 Princes Street, Cardiff, on May 31, 1991.

Letters, page 11

## Ford cuts 2,100 jobs as industry slumps

Continued from page 1

£400 million last year. The company went into the red for the first time in 20 years in 1990, when it recorded a pre-tax loss of £274 million.

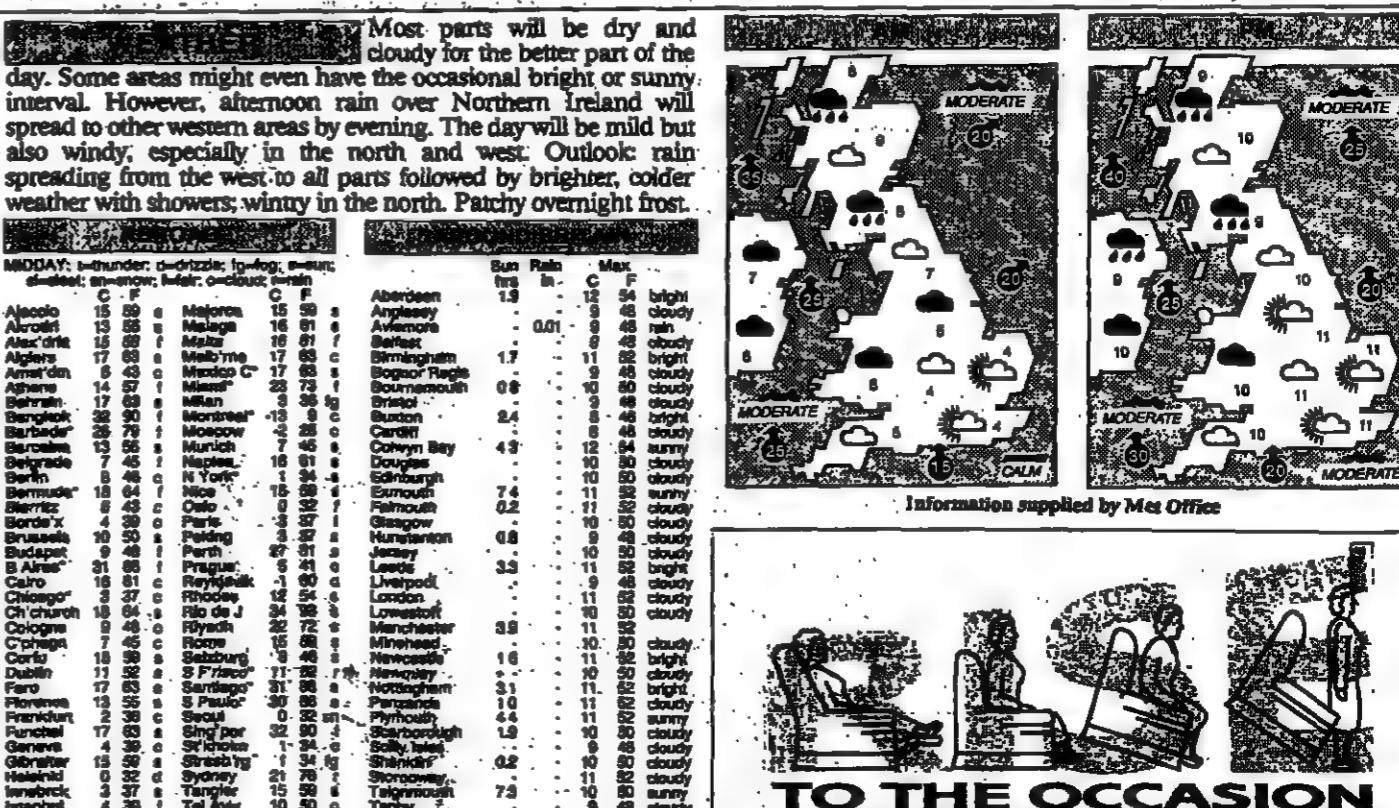
The brunt of the cuts will be borne by Ford's two main car manufacturing plants. Six hundred will go from Halewood on Merseyside, and another 500 at Dagenham, Essex. A further 450 will be cut from the Southampton Transit van plant and 300 from the engine plant at Bridgend, South Wales. The cuts will also include 600 white-collar workers. The Vauxhall jobs will go

from its parts warehouse in Luton, Bedfordshire.

The reductions announced by BMW yesterday underlined suspicions that Germany had finally been affected by the worldwide economic downturn. About a thousand staff will go from the head office in Munich and the remaining 2,000 will go from plants throughout Germany.

The cutbacks by German motor manufacturers mark the end of the surge in demand for cars after German unification in October 1990.

Ministers under fire, page 2



Information supplied by Met Office

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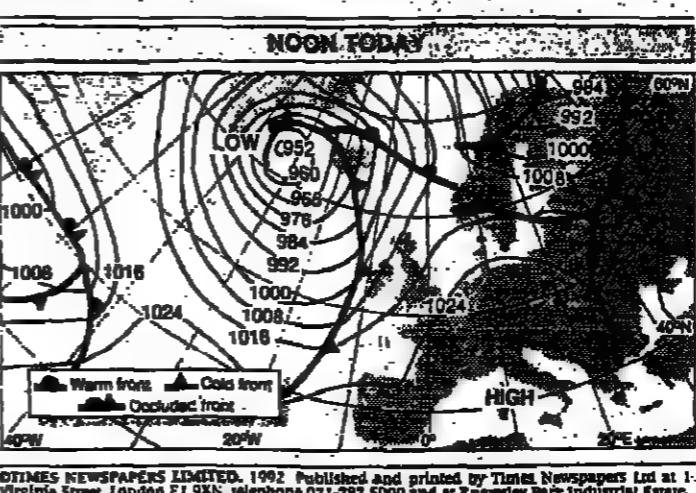
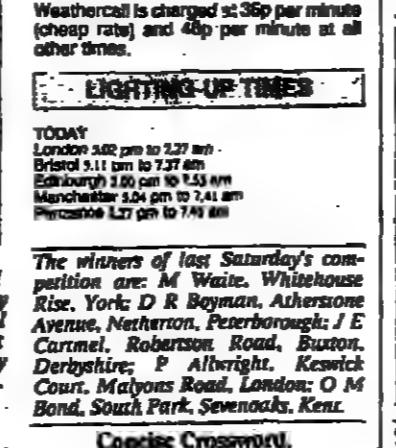
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# THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

## MONEY

### Profile

Robin Biggarn dreamt of becoming a foreign correspondent for *The Times*, but instead pushed himself to take evening classes in accountancy, which although "tough and incredibly boring", started him on the road to his present position as chairman of BICC, the construction conglomerate. Page 17



### Surrender values

Surrendering a unitised with-profits policy could leave policyholders hundreds of pounds worse off if they had taken out a conventional policy. Page 20

### Korea opening

British investors may soon be able to buy unit trusts investing in Korean and Mexican stocks but they must spread their money to avoid the pitfalls of these volatile markets. Page 22

You can come home  
the cheques been  
cleared at last



Lemers. Page 24

### Tax claim aid

Brenda Deguid will be among the staff working on a free telephone service, which begins tomorrow, set up by the Inland Revenue to help taxpayers claim refunds of tax they should not have paid on interest or dividends. Up to eight million people have paid too much tax since April, when the rules on building society and bank interest were changed and the composite rate tax was abolished. Callers will be connected with their local tax office. Page 22



### BES buybacks

Concern is growing that housing associations involved in assured-exit business expansion schemes may not be able to meet their commitments to buy back property. Page 21



### Plugging holes

The Financial Services Act is five years old, but the system of investor protection is undergoing an overhaul to plug holes in its defences against fraudsters. Page 19

## Both the dollar and Wall Street tumble

# Job cuts cast doubt over US recovery

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP fall in employment in America's retail and manufacturing industries in January fuelled market hopes of a cut in interest rates and sent the dollar and Wall Street into steep retreat.

Adding to concern about America's recovery from recession was fresh evidence that recovery has also petered out in Canada, where unemployment rose last month.

The American labour department's closely watched non-farm payroll series indicated a disturbing fall of 91,000 jobs, instead of the

21,000 increase that Wall Street had been expecting.

The data, the first of the important official indicators for January, was seen as confirmation that the American economy is failing to respond to the recovery's efforts to foster the recovery. The dollar dropped 2.5 per cent in response, to stand at DM1.5645, its weakest for almost a month, at the Frankfurt close. The Dow Jones industrial index fell 30.41 points to 3,225.18.

Michael Boskin, chief economic adviser to the White House, said the economy would remain sluggish for a

couple of months and that unemployment could rise slightly in the months ahead. But he said it would subsequently start to fall as the economy picked up to achieve the 2.2 per cent growth that the administration has forecast for this year.

Mr Boskin underlined that meeting the growth target would be more assured if Congress approved President Bush's growth package, or something close to it.

The American unemployment rate was stuck at 7.1 per cent in January, a five-year high, with 8.9 million out of work. On a seasonally adjusted basis, unemployment rose by 38,000 last month, bringing the total number of jobs shed since the recession started in the summer of 1990 to 2.5 million. The disappointing jobs data followed signs of some improvement in the economy, foremost of which was in housing.

Brian Hillard, economist at Strauss Turnbull, said the latest figures showed continued weakness that was likely to be confirmed in retail sales and industrial output figures next week. Despite the greater optimism about housing, he expected the construction industry to have been flat in January. Although the pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to ease the monetary reins is now increased, Mr Hillard cautioned against reading permanent doom and gloom into recent indicators.

In addition to a rise in the number of jobless, the average length of time people were unemployed also lengthened to 16.4 weeks in January from 15.3 weeks in December. The number of people employed part-time who want full-time jobs rose by 40,000 in January to 6.7 million.

Part of the dollar retreat yesterday was attributed to a shift of expectations about the way German interest rates will move. This followed comments on Thursday by Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, which were taken as a signal that there will be no German easing before the summer. Dr Schlesinger said he saw no indications of a loosening in German monetary policy because of strong growth in the German money supply.

Canadian figures showed that the jobless rate edged up to 10.4 per cent in January from 10.3 per cent in December. Statistics Canada said the number of employed Canadians fell by 13,000 to 12.3 million. A 40,000 fall in full-time employment was concentrated among men, as was a 27,000 increase in part-time employment.

A senior government official in Ottawa, meanwhile, said Canada's gross domestic product was flat in the fourth quarter of 1991. He said the same quarter was flat in America, and Canada expected broadly the same picture.

Canadian GDP rose 0.2 per cent in the third quarter after 1.4 per cent in the second, following four consecutive quarters of shrinkage.

## Bundesbank says no split on summit

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

THE Bundesbank council is attempting to dispel speculation about a split on the assessment of the Maastricht summit by rallying around the official position, which welcomes the agreement on economic and monetary union as "broadly in line with our recommendations".

In a statement yesterday, the Bundesbank refrained from attacking the lack of agreement on political union at Maastricht and noted merely that economic and

political union should go hand in hand.

At a news conference in Frankfurt, Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank's president, denied there had been disagreement among the council members and said that "as usual with such speculation, it was wrong". He said the statement had been agreed by the Bundesbank's entire central council.

However, the comments on Maastricht contained some diplomatically worded criticisms and warnings. The central bank cautioned against strict timetables for the introduction of a single currency, saying "the fulfilment of entry criteria and conditions of convergence should not be restricted by a time frame".

The statement also reiterated the Bundesbank's previous demands that European central banks become independent as soon as possible and that governments should restrict budget deficits to the limits agreed at Maastricht.

Meanwhile, there was further bad economic news with the announcement that west German industry orders fell by a provisional 2.5 per cent in December, after a year-on-year fall of 3.8 per cent. The slowdown was the result of falling domestic orders, in line with a recent trend indicating that economic activity slowed down towards the end of last year.

Jürgen Möller, the economics minister, said the figures provided proof of economic uncertainty.

The settlement is thought to be the first between litigants and the errors and omissions insurance underwriters that dispute the legal actions brought by names.

It has led to widespread speculation that the much larger Outhwaite court case,

## Lloyd's names settle for £4m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A GROUP of 500 Lloyd's names who have had to pay out up to £80 million through American environmental pollution losses have reached a £4 million settlement with the Lloyd's agencies that they were suing.

The names were on the Warriow syndicate 533 and issued writs for negligence against the Warriow managing agency and 40 members' agencies in October 1989.

The settlement is thought to be the first between litigants and the errors and omissions insurance underwriters that dispute the legal actions brought by names.

It has led to widespread speculation that the much larger Outhwaite court case,

which has been adjourned since Monday, may also end in a settlement.

Tom Benyon, the former Conservative MP who headed the Warriow Names Steering Committee, said that the decision to settle came after the discovery that the maximum award that could be made to the names was £8.5 million.

The names have already spent £1.5 million in legal fees, while the estimated cost of bringing the case to court is £3 million.

The settlement represents 13.5 per cent of the names' exposure in the syndicate, compared with losses to date of 270 per cent and still rising; that result means names

will recuperate exactly 5 per cent of their losses.

Mr Benyon admitted that the relatively small settlement did not represent a huge victory for the names but said it would at least make the closure of the 1984 year more likely.

He added that Lloyd's, and in particular its chairman, David Coleridge, had played a "creative and helpful role" in the settlement.

David Harrison, a director of Harrison Brothers Underwriting Agencies, the members' agency, emphasised that the settlement had "nothing to do with Lloyd's".

It had instead been a "purely practical decision" on the part of the errors and

omissions underwriters to reduce costs. No principle of liability has been established through the settlement.

However, he added that nobody at Lloyd's would be comfortable with the establishment of a precedent in which a limited group of names from a syndicate come away with settlement, however small, after bringing a legal action.

"It puts members' agents in an awkward position," Mr Harrison said.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said the corporation had not been directly involved but that it always tried to "facilitate a settlement where it is in the best interests of the society."

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## Who ya gonna buy? Ghostbusters

By MARTIN BAUER



Scunthorpe is hardly Manhattan but there is a common link - Ghostbusters crisps. Well, not crisps, to be precise. Schoolboys will tell you that Ghostbusters are crunchy potato twirls. What they may not know is that they are made in Scunthorpe... and they are now British.

Golden Wonder, the snack food company synonymous with home-grown delicacies such as Wotsits and Pot Noodles, has bagged a clutch of American-inspired goodies including Ghostbusters snacks, paying a mouthwatering £44 million for Scunthorpe-based Sooner Snacks.

Sooner is being acquired from Borden Inc of America, adding a host of schoolboy favourites including Nik Naks, Wheat Crunchies and, of course, Ghostbusters. Dalgety, which owns Golden Wonder, is already Britain's third-largest producer of bagged snacks behind PepsiCo - owner of Smiths and Walkers - and United Biscuits. Sooner boasts sales of £57

million, increasing the enlarged Golden Wonder's annual turnover to almost £300 million. The acquisition does not thrust Golden Wonder ahead of its main rivals in sales but it gives the company a strong presence in what is known in the business as the impulse sector. Golden Wonder's snacks are ever present in supermarkets. Sooner crisps, on the other

hand, are popular in pubs and clubs, presumably to improve the taste of the beer, and in garages. There is also a good chance that the person sitting next to you in the cinema, driving you to distraction by munching and crunching his way through the film, is eating a Sooner snack.

Maurice Warren, chief executive of Dalgety, won't be too annoyed by

filmgoers' anti-social habits if Sooner can deliver the financial benefits he anticipates. In 1990, the last year for which Sooner's accounts are available, the company earned trading profits of £1.9 million and at the year-end net assets were £18 million. Mr Warren believes that cost savings of around £2 million can be achieved through reduced overheads and integrated production, resulting in a wider range of snacks at Scunthorpe.

Mr Warren is also enthused by Sooner's fleet of 112 vans that distribute snacks to smaller retailers and can be used to supply other Golden Wonder products, although pub landlords may not yet be ready to sell pot noodles over the bar.

With 80 per cent of the snack food market controlled by the big three companies, further acquisitions in the sector are unlikely but Mr Warren continues to follow up possible deals for other Dalgety divisions. The group owns Spillers Foods, which produces perfumed and Homepride, the flour and sauces maker.

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.8342 (+0.0167)

German mark 2.8687 (-0.0015)

Exchange index 91.4 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1945.1 (-16.1)

FT-SE 100 2517.2 (-17.1)

New York Dow Jones 3248.43 (-7.16)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22107.12 (+2.20)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10.1%

3-month Interbank 10.1% - 10.5%

3-month eligible bills 10.1% - 10.5%

US: Prime Rate 6.1%

Federal Funds 3.7%

3-month Treasury Bills 3.74-3.73%

30-year bonds 10.3% - 10.3%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York

£ 81.8345 \$ 1.8275

£ DM2.6592 \$ DM1.5800

# Last-quarter fall in insolvencies brings little cheer

By COLIN NARROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A MODEST fall in insolvencies in the final quarter of last year was encouraging, but it would be premature to speak of a turnaround in the economy, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

The association was commenting on government figures that showed a 5 per cent drop in company insolvencies to 5,554 last quarter. However, this represented a 21 per cent increase on the same quarter of 1990 and boosted total insolvencies for 1991 to 21,827, an annual rise of 45 per cent. The total accounted

for 2.3 per cent of active companies registered with Companies House, which underlines the scale of damage recession has inflicted on British business.

Ron Taylor, the ABCC director general, said it was "encouraging" to see a fall in the seasonally adjusted figure for company liquidations, after eight consecutive quarters of increases. "But we cannot afford to be complacent. One in 43 companies going in liquidation in 1991 has had a serious impact on business confidence." There could not be a company in Britain that had not been hit by a bad debt from a firm going to the wall, and smaller firms, in particular, were suffering severely, he said.

He cautioned against reading the final-quarter figures as evidence of turnaround, since some lag could be expected between any significant downturn in insolvencies and economic recovery.

He also foresees continuing difficulties for companies in funding work in progress as the economy picked up, and did not expect the final-quarter data to reverse the downturn in business confidence shown in the ABCC's latest survey.

"They will indeed reinforce present caution in British boardrooms about investment intentions," Mr Taylor said. "Recovery continues to be a long and slow process."

The government data showed individual, or personal, insolvencies up 11 per cent last quarter to 7,759 to stand 82 per cent above the final quarter of 1990. Personal insolvencies for 1991 were up 83 per cent at 25,640.

Despite the gloomy picture provided by the insolvency figures, the latest worldwide optimism survey from Dun & Bradstreet, the leading American business information group, shows that British executives' expectations for higher profits this quarter have improved. But it notes that overall expectations in Europe remain mixed, with sales optimism suffering a three-point fall, against a two-

point rise in optimism about the profit outlook. Expectations for higher prices in Europe, the main focus of British trade, have also climbed three points, driven by sharp increases in Germany, France and Switzerland.

Joseph Duncan, chief economist at D&B, said: "Overall, the employment outlook in Europe is grim... Nearly every country reported declining levels of optimism about increased first-quarter employment." The European employment optimism index has now shown negative for over a year. The survey of nearly 11,000 executives in 14 countries showed world business expectations for sales and profits this quarter at the near-record lows seen during the Gulf war.

A survey from Britain's Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors shows that nine out of ten civil engineering firms are operating on lower margins than a year ago, the sixth consecutive quarterly survey to show more than 80 per cent of companies with declining margins. In the previous survey, 68 per cent reported lower margins. In the latest sampling, only 1 per cent of the companies involved were able to report higher margins, while 9 per cent said they were unchanged.

Order books are, however, showing a slightly improved trend compared with October. Some 24 per cent of companies now report higher orders, compared with 16 per cent in October. Firms reporting a deterioration in order books dropped to 50 per cent from 61 per cent.

Randal Hale, the federation chairman, said the fall in margins, despite the easing of cost pressures, was not simply due to a fall in the workload, as civil engineering had held up better during the recession than other sectors of the construction industry. He said companies that were previously concentrating on building had joined the competition for civil engineering business.

**Westland move**  
Christopher Bunker, finance director of Westland Group, will leave the Yeovil helicopter manufacturer to join Dowty Group, the aerospace and electronics company, in August.

**Frost buys**  
FROST Group is buying six petrol stations for £1.25 million cash. This first site purchase since its refloating in October 1991 takes the total number of sites owned by Frost to 85.

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Illustration based on an actual client. Mid-price valuations. Index figure source - The WM Company.

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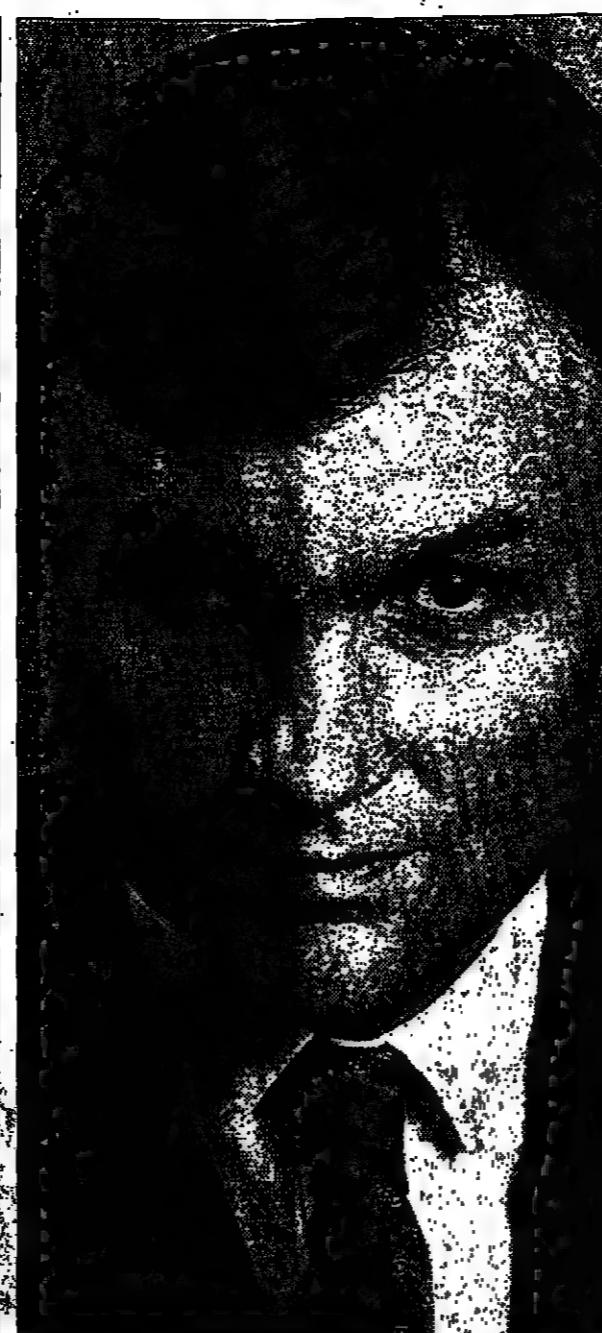
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Simplified structure: Archie Norman of Asda

## Norman shuffles board at Asda

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ARCHIE Norman, Asda Group's new chief executive, has reorganised the senior management of the group into a more simplified structure, to concentrate on improving the fortunes of the main Asda supermarket business. Mr Norman is taking on the additional role of chief executive of Asda Stores.

The changes involve a switch of roles for Tony Campbell and Richard Harker, Asda's former joint managing directors. Mr Campbell becomes trading director responsible for co-ordinating buying, merchandising and logistics. Mr Harker becomes retail director. He will be responsible for store operations and security.

Jonathan Fox, personnel director, has resigned and a replacement will be announced shortly. No other departures or additions to senior management team are expected. Phil Cox, finance director, will be responsible for systems, Asda manufacturing and MFI, in addition to finance. John Duggan, managing director of Gazeley, Asda's property division, will head a single property division.

Paul Dowling is responsible for a single, integrated PR and communications function, reporting to Mr Norman. The executive members of the group board are Mr Norman, Mr Harker, Mr Campbell and Mr Cox.

## Civil engineering 'has further to fall'

THE civil engineering industry has yet to reach the bottom of the recession and firms expect to continue shedding jobs this year, according to a survey. Two fifths of companies feared job losses and a third predicted falling orders, according to the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. Firms reporting better order books increased compared with a year ago but most of the 156 companies questioned (62 per cent) said orders were worse.

The results again show workload and jobs falling, and set to fall further before we reach the bottom of the recession," said Randal Hale, federation chairman. "Improvement in civil engineering contractors' profitability needs an upturn in building as well as higher spending on constructing and maintaining Britain's infrastructure."

## CML profit warning

SHARES in CML Microsystems dropped 56p to 247p after the USM quoted electronic components group issued a profit warning. CML's usually strong final quarter is understood to have suffered from a fall in worldwide semiconductor sales; only the American market is thought to have held up. As a result, the group reviewed orders for January to March. It concluded that second-half pre-tax profits are likely to be "moderately below" the first-half figure of £2.37 million, although the board is confident of the medium- and long-term outlook. Analysts have cut their full-year profit forecasts from £5.5 million to about £4.3 million (£4.85 million).

## SWEB debt move

SOUTH Western Electricity (SWEB) has made its first foray into the capital markets by setting up a £100 million multi-currency commercial paper programme. The programme, which will be used for working capital and general corporate funding, has been given the top A-1 plus and P-1 ratings by the leading rating agencies. The programme was arranged by NatWest Capital Markets and the dealers are NatWest, Lloyds Bank and Midland Bank. John Sellers, SWEB's finance director, said that the programme "will provide a cost-effective means of displacing some of our existing short-term borrowings". He was confident it would be a success.

## Tokyo brokers shrink

JAPAN'S scandal-plagued brokerage industry shrank by 10,000 workers in the second half of last year, the first decline since 1979, the Japan Securities Dealers Association said yesterday. Employees at 267 brokerages, including 50 foreign brokers, totalled 156,558 at the end of 1991, down from 166,965 at the end of June 1991, and down from 158,601 at the end of 1990. Shrinking employee bonuses and commissions, after a prolonged slump in stock prices slashed company earnings, also prompted many to quit. Still others were dismissed or retired early as part of brokerages' efficiency plans. "Many brokerages are struggling to cut costs," one industry source said.

## P-E to hold payout

P-E International, the management and computer consultancy which suffered a 33 per cent decline in first-half profits, said it plans to pay a maintained final dividend of 4.2p, giving an unchanged total of 6.2p, when it reports in March. The company also announced that Hugh Lang, aged 60, is to step down as executive chairman after the annual meeting on May 20. George Cox, the former managing director of Butler Cox, will succeed him. Mr Cox, aged 51, has joined the P-E board as a director and as executive chairman designate. P-E shares eased 4p to 91p, after touching 97p.

## Packer float details due

DETAILS of the flotation of Kerry Packer's magazine unit, Australian Consolidated Press (ACP), will be released on Monday, according to Ord Minnett Securities, the underwriter. Press reports have said Mr Packer's privately owned Consolidated Press Holdings (CPH) will sell 55 per cent of its ACP magazine interests to raise about Aus\$475 million (£196 million). Last month, Consolidated Press said that up to Aus\$50.3 million would be raised through the flotation of 51 per cent of Valassis Communications, Mr Packer's American advertising coupon insert business.

## IIC asset value up 5%

THE net asset value of the Independent Investment Company, a trust managed by Ivory & Sime, stood at 57.7p a share at end-December. This represents a rise of 5 per cent in the first six months of the financial year, and a 10.3 per cent advance when compared with end-December 1990. Pre-tax revenue in the six months to end-December 1991 fell to £582,000, against £798,000 last time. Earnings dropped to 0.4p (0.59p) per share. Once again, no interim dividend is being proposed.

## Kvaerner buys Enserch firms

FROM REUTER IN OSLO

Wright units in both the America and Britain.

Kvaerner wishes to expand its foreign activities in the offshore area to include the entire North Sea. Thus it is natural to acquire an engineering subsidiary in Britain, Kvaerner said. The British firm will be Kvaerner H&G Offshore Engineering UK and Enserch's Earl and Wright, and work with projects linked

to processing facilities on North Sea platforms.

The company has 550 employees in the British Isles with a head office in London and a branch in Aberdeen. In America, the firm would be called Kvaerner Earl & Wright Inc, with 100 employees in Houston and San Francisco. The company would mainly serve nations around the Pacific.

## National Westminster Bank Mortgage Rate

With effect from 24 January 1992 for borrowers whose applications have been signed but whose mortgages have not been drawn, and from

1 March 1992 for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be reduced from 11.55% to 10.99%. This change will be reflected in existing borrowers' repayments from 5 or 22 March 1992.

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## BUSINESS PROFILE: Robin Biggam

## Rise and rise of a reluctant accountant

BICC's chairman has a fascination for history, although his career took a different course, Carol Leonard finds

**T**hirty-three years ago, in a semi-detached house in Carlisle, Lanarkshire, Robin Biggam was shut away in his bedroom, poring over accountancy books — not that he really wanted to be an accountant. He cherished a dream that one day he might go to university, then become a foreign correspondent for *The Times*.

He was, and still is, fascinated by history and current affairs, but times were hard, money was short, and Biggam's father, who spent his working life with British Linen Bank, concluded that as all the chartered accountants he had met appeared to have plenty of money, this would be a good profession for his only son.

Biggam's father, an elder in the local Presbyterian church, had instilled the work ethic into all three of his children and Biggam applied himself dutifully to this career course. At the age of 17, he was articled to a firm in Glasgow and he attended classes five evenings a week for the next five years. "It was tough and incredibly boring," recalls Biggam, now aged 53 and chairman of BICC, the £937 million cables, engineering and Balfour Beatty construction conglomerate. "I'm not a natural accountant, I'm a natural historian, but there was a feeling that I had to do it. That there would be no future for me unless I had the determination to actually sit up and get through the exams, plus the thought of what might happen to me if I did not."

In the rare moments when he contemplated the prospect of failure, he would look about him at the lifestyle of his neighbours: coal miners and steelworkers at nearby Ravenscraig. The young Biggam knew that he was different. Or, more to the point, he knew that he wanted to be different.

"It sounds trite, but I really wanted to get on, and do something with my life. I wanted more than my parents had, and more than the people around me had. I felt that there must be

more to life than sitting around in Lanarkshire for the next 50 years."

Even at Lanark Grammar, where he was good at sport as well as his studies — he was a year ahead of his age group — he was never fully part of the crowd. "I was always with the crowd, but I was also always just a little bit apart. I had a driving force that made me somehow different. People who knew me at school would probably remember me, even at that stage, as being pretty ambitious. I don't think they would be surprised to see me now." Biggam lives in a large Georgian house with two acres of grounds in Bedfordshire, owns another home in Portugal, is looking for a *pied-a-terre* in London, and draws what he describes as a "ridiculous" salary of £230,000.

That salary can be justified by BICC's growth in profits from £101 million in 1986, the year he took the helm, to £183 million in 1990. Earnings per share, in the same period, have almost doubled.

The cables business, which has also doubled in size, now accounts for 40 per cent of turnover and 75 per cent of profits. BICC is now one of the three biggest cable companies in the world.

If Biggam, who became finance director of ICI Fibres at the age

of 35, then went to work for ICL and Dunlop, alongside Sir Michael Edwards, has one regret, it is, he says, that he sacrificed his youth. "Between the ages of 17 and 22, I was working through the evening. It has, perhaps, changed in Scotland now, but when I was young, people who came from very humble but Presbyterian backgrounds, and who wanted to make a success of their lives, believed in hard work and play. Education was the way to improve yourself and escape. That's why I was so determined that my own children would go to university."

Biggam's children have fulfilled his ambitions. Ross, aged 28, is employed by the Houses of Parliament as an adviser on European affairs to the select committee — a job his father would love to do! Jennifer, aged 25, buys television time for clients at Saatchi & Saatchi; and Carolyn, aged 22, is a student at Goldsmiths' College. Biggam says: "She wants to be a primary school teacher, like her mother." Biggam's wife, Betty, also a Scot, teaches two days a week of the three children. It is Jennifer who is most like her father "both in character and looks," says Biggam. "She is stubborn and fierce. Perhaps it is modesty; you do not like to blow your own trumpet."

Mrs Biggam agrees with his indirect self description. "Yes, he is stubborn. He holds out for something he believes is right and nine times out of ten he is right. He is a very uncomplicated person, very straightforward, terribly honest, straightforward and very generous with me and the family." Biggam is not, she says, a workaholic but a



JULIAN HERBERT

Family first: Robin Biggam, relaxing at home with his wife, Betty, likes to keep his private and public lives separate

family man. He has never put his career first, but although he makes friends easily, entertains often, and is a warm and generous host, he is not spontaneously open. He makes a point of differentiating between business associates and personal friends and, almost without exception, keeps the two worlds apart. "He is quite an open person but he always keeps a little bit back until he knows you really well. Deep down, he is a very private person and so am I. As I do, he finds it difficult to talk about himself. Perhaps it is modesty; you do not like to blow your own trumpet."

I suggest that this paragon of virtue must have some faults. She thinks long and hard. "He flings around the channels on the television without telling me," she says eventually. "Yes, of course it annoys me. I ask Biggam the same question. He too pauses for thought. He is not afraid of silence. He is then slightly more forthcoming: "I'm intolerant and inconsiderate." Both are claims his wife would refute. The prospect of modesty again rears its head.

Intolerance and lack of consideration are traits out of keeping with his political leanings. Biggam was a founder member of the SDP, says he is not, however, a believer in lost causes, and that his political allegiance now oscillates between the Liberals and the Conservatives. "I really believe that politics is far too confrontational in this country. Other European countries seem able to prosper with coalitions and we keep telling ourselves that it is impossible in this country. We move from one extreme to the other. Politics of the extreme are certainly not conducive to running a business."

Biggam has a habit of abbreviating sentences. It is a sign, perhaps, of a quick mind. Colleagues will attest that this is true, that he is quick at solving problems, quick at assessing individuals, and that the one thing guaranteed to irritate him is a long-winded subordinate.

Barry Keats, BICC's personnel director and one of the few business associates to have been invited into the Biggam family home, says: "He does have an extremely fast mind, one of the fastest I have ever come across, and he does get irritated if you try to flannel him. He can be demanding to work for; he is a tough manager and he needs to be in a tough environment, but he is also a very nice guy. He wanders around the office in his shirt sleeves, he is very approachable, but anyone who cannot encapsulate all that they want to say to him in five minutes will not

survive." Biggam in his shirt sleeves looks tall and fit. His hair is grey but thick. He swims twice a week at the RAC Club and plays golf on Saturday mornings. He is, Keats says, more a man's man than a ladies' man. "He is more of a 'pint down the golf club' type of person."

Biggam is not naturally gregarious, nor is he quite as straightforward as is claimed. He admits that he has a public face and a private face and that no individual has seen both. "I do have quite a lot of friends but I'm quite happy just to be on my own. I'm very content with my own company. Actually, I think I need space on my own more than I need people. Even years ago, when I went on holidays with the kids, from time to time I would go and climb a mountain on my own, rather than do something with them — just to be alone with my own thoughts, able to go where I wanted."

**H**is need for solitude is not new. It has not been brought about by his changed lifestyle. His wife, who met him in 1958, says: "He is still the same person that he's always been. He has not changed at all." Picture again the grammar school boy. He was popular but, of his own volition, he remained on the fringe of the crowd.

In an attempt to marry up Biggam's private and public faces, I talk to him again about his being cool, calm, tough and direct at work. "Perhaps I'm seeking perfection all the time. I try to set a very high standard" — but warm, caring and emotional at home. He fidgets uncomfortably as I persist. Is he finding it difficult to pull back the shun? "You could be right," is he shy? "I think probably right." He laughs awkwardly.

He refuses to discuss religion.

"It's a purely personal thing and not something I would like to see in print." Long after the interview, he attempts to have publication of this article halted.

It is only when I ask Biggam about Scotland and his roots that he suddenly seems able to roll all the answers into one, resorting to the safety of talking in the third person. He describes himself as a passionate expatriate. "Deep down I think all Scotsmen are emotional and volatile. The dour Scotsman is just a figment of the imagination, it is quite the opposite really. They care passionately about life, but they have got to have 'pint enough' whisky before they show it."

**I** do have quite a lot of friends but I'm quite happy to be on my own. I'm content with my own company

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

## Falling foul of a desire to increase Rover's returns

BET Gilroy has long been a familiar sight on the pages of the tabloid press. But when Britain's best known barmaid graduates to the front pages of the broadsheets, it is clear that something serious must be oop, sorry up.

According to Mrs Gilroy — perhaps better known by her maiden name of Lynch and more accurately as actress Julie Goodyear — what was up was the future of British broadcasting, which this weekend reputedly teeters on the edge of collapse following the enforced departure of David Plowright, chairman of Granada Television.

Given the relentless enthusiasm of the television industry for making a drama out of a crisis (*Brideshead Redeemed* — you've read the stock exchange announcement, now watch the mini-series) it is difficult for outside observers to determine just how critical Mr Plowright's departure, after 30 years, really is.

Ms Goodyear was in no doubt, however, and made an impassioned plea for Mr Plowright's return. "David Plowright has Granada stamped through him like a stick of Blackpool rock," she said, showing a Bet-like case with sharp one-liners.

Much has been made of the fact that Mr Plowright's hasty exit followed an alteration with the new chief executive of Granada Group, Gerry Robinson, who not only has the misfortune to be an accountant but arrived at Granada from Compass Group, a catering and private hospitals company. "I mean darling, he's all clings and bedpans. Not exactly Bafta award material is it?" As for what her new boss might be stamped through with Ms Goodyear, perhaps prudently, is not saying.

Personally, I think Mr Robinson just has a few first-night nerves. After all, he has been there only four months and probably still thinks that the main aim in commercial television is to make money. But we know better than that — don't we huvvies. Not that we need to spend



## Lufthansa poised to cancel new aircraft

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

THE downturn in the world airline business has finally caught up with one of the industry's rock-solid operators, Deutsche Lufthansa, the German national airline.

Lufthansa confirmed yesterday that it might have to delay orders on 11 new Boeing 737 and Airbus 320 aircraft, due for delivery next year, as part of a cost-saving drive. The airline's management board is considering a series of measures, which could include further order cancellations.

A spokesman said that "restrictive staff measures" are also being looked at. It is widely speculated that this could include a freeze on hiring new staff or even redundancies.

Last year was one of the worst in the history of the airline, which gave a warning this week of a DM 400 million loss for 1991, the first loss since 1973. Like other carriers, Lufthansa was hard hit by the Gulf war and the worldwide economic downturn.

In 1991, there was a 33 per cent expansion of its fleet, to a total of 225 aircraft, but the collapse in the second-hand aircraft market meant that plans to sell 14 used aircraft had to be shelved. The fact that used aircraft are difficult to resell is one of main reasons for the company's review of its orders.

Lufthansa's difficulties and the tightness of German public finances have again raised the issue of privatisation. The airline is listed on the German stock exchange, but the majority of the shares are held by the federal and regional states.

The official line from Lufthansa is that privatisation is a matter for the shareholders rather than the company itself.

The biggest obstacle to privatisation is the transfer of the company's pension fund — under which Lufthansa employees enjoy the same benefits as people working in the public sector — to a private-sector fund.

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TEMPEST

## Wolseley taps in to French success

WITH the wave of cross-border takeovers over recent years, a number of venerable national and racial stereotypes are becoming difficult to sustain.

Popular British myth had it that French plumbing standards were not quite what they could be. No more. From today, not only will the company supplying many of the water pipes and U-bends of France be British-owned, but the purchaser, Wolseley, admits that standards of French plumbing may actually be higher than in the UK.

The Fr930.95 million purchase of the Brossette Group went down well in the City. Wolseley shares closing 1p up to 414p. Wolseley does not deny that it is paying a full price for the acquisition but believes that the opportunity to buy the company was too good to miss. Brossette, 95 per cent owned by the founding Brossette family, is the market leader in France with a 12 per cent national share and is warranted to have made pre-tax profits of Fr101.4 million last year.

The multiple of 13.7 times historic earnings

looks pricey but Jeremy Lancaster, the chairman and managing director of Wolseley, is adamant that the deal will not dilute earnings.

Further ahead, Brossette will form the launch pad for further expansion east into Germany and south into Spain and Italy. Wolseley is already the biggest company of its kind in the world, dominating the UK and American markets. Now it looks as if it has the whole of western and, in due course eastern Europe, in its sights.

However, the deal is also something of a leap in the dark. Wolseley is well aware of the cultural pitfalls of Anglo-French business partnerships, and with a largely non-Francophone board it has its work cut out to achieve a successful integration.

The shares issued to finance the deal mean that earnings expectations for the current and next financial years are little changed at 25p and 25p respectively. The shares, on a 1993 multiple of 14.6 times, do not come cheap, but Wolseley has fully justified its premium rating.

## Wiggins Group

ATTEMPTS to contact Wiggins Group are as difficult for customers as they were for Tempus yesterday, the housebuilder would be struggling without a recession.

Cynics might have questioned whose hand was on the pickaxe that smashed the company's telephone link on one of its most public days of the year, were it not for the fact that Wiggins always appears approachable in the early days of the property collapse.

So serious has been the slump in property values that net assets have deteriorated to less than half the paid-up share capital and shareholders are sum-

med to an extraordinary meeting at the end of the month.

Operationally, the key measure taken so far is the switch of the group's prime activities from London's docklands to the East Midlands, where Stephen Hayman, the chairman, sees "some indications of an improvement in the demand for new houses".

Closing down the operations in the South-West cost more than £1 million and led to a doubling of the group loss for the six months to September 30, to £1.76 million. In the previous full year there was a loss of £2.49 million.

At 10p the shares are only for the very brave.

MARKET-makers were busy selling shares as the two-week trading account closed, which does not bode well for Monday's new account.

Brokers say the market-makers have been selling stock to balance their books and minimise exposure to the market. This clearly had an impact on the market, with the FT-SE 100 index ending the session near the day's low, 17.1 down at 2,517.2. But turnover was boosted to almost 600 million shares as market-makers sorted out their positions.

There has been persistent concern in London during the past couple of weeks about a big technical correction on Wall Street after its record-breaking run. There has been little evidence of one so far, but with the Dow Jones index opening lower in early trading, traders in London were taking no chances.

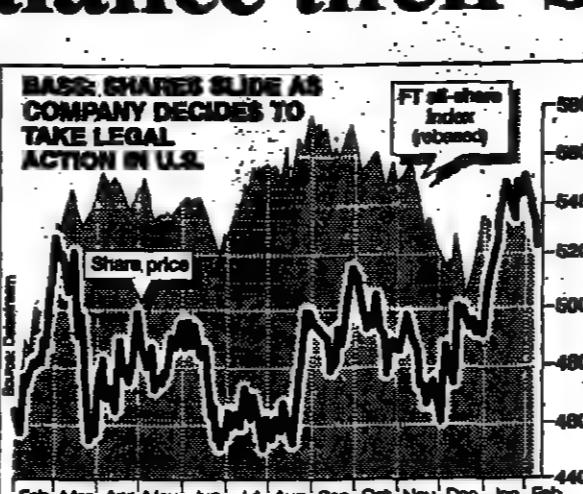
This has been one trading account that fund managers and traders alike will be glad to see the back of, with sentiment weighed down heavily by gloomy political and economic news, the worries over Wall Street and a general absence of corporate activity.

Bearing this in mind, the institutions have doggedly stuck to the sidelines, waiting for signs of an upturn on the economic front or a pick-up in corporate trading news.

Gilt yields with losses of almost 5% at the longer end, unseated by the start of trading on Monday in a new tap £1.25 billion of Treasury 9 per cent 2012.

International companies were worried about renewed dollar weakness and there were falls for ICI, 20p to £12.55, Glaxo, 13p to 86p, and SmithKline Beecham A, 8p to 95.5p.

Base, the drinks and hotel group, fell to 513p before closing 13p lower at 522p, after the company announced it had begun legal proceedings against Promus, the company that formerly managed its Holiday Inn hotel chain.



Base claims that it was misled by Promus when it agreed to pay \$2.23 billion for the hotels in 1990. Promus had been established to buy out other assets of Holiday Corporation, the original owner

cider. The shares closed 18p down at 524p.

Allied-Lyons showed signs of bottoming out after this week's steep fall, the price easing just 3p to 619p. BZW

has become the latest firm to

ing throughout January.

Grand Metropolitan rallied 9p to 921p as recent speculation that the group is about to hit the acquisition trail began to fade. Earlier this week, there was talk Grand Met was about to make an offer for Pernod or Perrier Ricard.

There were still worries for a number of big companies relating to proposed changes in accounting practices. BZW is about to publish a report outlining the depressing effects some of these changes, particularly the way they treat disposals and deferred taxation, may have on earnings. Those on the list include British Airways, off 9p to 221p; P&G, 8p at 421p; Fisons, steady at 379p; Ladbrokes, 15p down at 206p; and Cable and Wireless, steady at 580p. British Airways was further weakened by repeated reports of delays to its proposed merger with KLM, the Dutch airline.

Medeva, the pharmaceutical group, rallied another 1p to a new high of 293p.

Great Universal Stores A fell 10p to £14.20 as fund managers continued to express disappointment with Thursday's presentation arranged by Warburg Securities. It was hoped the group had something positive to say, especially regarding reform of its two-tier voting structure. The institutions left the meeting disappointed, with the group prepared to give little away.

Knorr-Sauvageon extended recent losses with a fall of 17p to 577p as the profit downgradings continued. Already this week, it has been hit by a cut in profit estimates by James Capel, Charterhouse Tilney and BZW. Analysts say the group is coming under increasing pressure from the German discount food chains.

Wace, the pre-press specialist, remained out of favour with the price dropping another 14p to 105p.

MICHAEL CLARK

New York — Blue chip shares moved higher and the broad market extended gains after bonds rallied. The Dow average was up 5 points in early trading at 3,261.

Tokyo — The Nikkei index was up 2.2 at 22,107.12.

Sydney — The all-ordinates index was down 3.7 at 1,590.9.

Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index was up 39.28 at 4,711.37.

Frankfurt — The Dax index was up 4.39 at 1,685.52.

## Market-makers unload to balance their books

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downgrade, cutting its pre-tax profit estimate for the current year by £25 million to £635 million and, for next year, from £680 million to £620 million. Once again the move is blamed on poor trad-

ing of the business.

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• DEBT LINE 23  
• LETTERS 24

# WEEKEND MONEY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Once again we are subject to a pre-Budget flood of mailings telling us to invest now before this never-to-be-repeated bargain is withdrawn by the wicked Chancellor. This year, the season is spiced up with pre-election fever. We now have two Chancellors to fear.

Business expansion schemes with guaranteed exits, single company personal equity plans, managed Peps, and all the other permutations of the tax-free plans are being given the hard sell. Some are moving further afield to whip up worries about inheritance tax. The prime minister has stated clearly that he wants to reduce the burden of this tax and it is widely expected that his Chancellor will lift substantially the threshold for the start of the 40 per cent tax.

However, scaremongers are trying to sell expensive insurance policies to cover inheritance tax bills. They argue that the spectre of a Labour government makes such an investment a good idea now before prices rise.

Some salesmen even suggest

that people will be leaving a debt behind for their children if they do not take out such cover.

A few offshore products are also being dusted down as a pre-election special. The salesmen encourage investors to transfer their savings beyond the jurisdiction of the British tax authorities for fear of higher rate taxes here, without explaining that the investors will probably still be liable to a tax bill if their affairs are scrutinised closely. The funds will not be covered by the investor compensation scheme.

Sophisticated investors will be aware that this is an annual event and that the BES season would not be complete without a threat to their future. This year it is double-barrelled: the salesmen claim, as both Chancellors have, that the schemes on their hit lists. Others might be seduced by the glossy photographs and the fine phrases and forget to



## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

the prospectuses plop through the letter box in ever increasing numbers, a fair amount of scepticism is required and a brief jog of the memory. It is not long since asset-backed schemes to buy in fine wines and farmland were sold as safe investments.

Money poured in as BES companies promised that the Inland Revenue was going to subsidise all the wine person could drink. Many investors have lived to rue the day they believed in the glossy photographs and the fine phrases and forgot to

question the details. Too many "risk-free" schemes have failed in the past, making the tax incentives expensive. Too many personal equity plans cost more in charges than investors get back in tax relief, unless they intend to hold the investments for a long time. No investment in any type of scheme should be bought for the tax breaks alone. Nor should a rush to beat a deadline prevent careful reading of the prospectus and asking of questions of the purveyor of the scheme.

A good investment stands scrutiny and an honest salesman

will not mind finding out the answers. Of course, there is also always the possibility that yet another pre-Budget scare has no substance. This will, no doubt, give the salesmen as they count up their takings.

## Charity breaks

As the fifth anniversary of the Give As You Earn scheme approaches, another attempt to breathe life into it is being attempted. So far, a derisory 143,237 people have signed up to benefit charities through their pay packets.

Next week, a campaign will be launched to encourage more people to give to charities in this way. It enables them to be generous with money that would otherwise have gone to the Inland Revenue. Givers pay only the net

amount after tax but the charities receive the gross amount.

Last year, £23.7 million was paid to 3,500 charities in this way by 2,557 employers. Unfortunately, there are many more workers who would like to give tax-effectively but cannot do so through their payroll because their employers do not want the extra administrative burden of providing it.

Give As You Earn campaigners are looking for a boost to the annual giving limit in the Budget. This is now £600 per employee. It has come a long way since being introduced by Nigel Lawson at only £10 a month.

The Budget could give the scheme an even bigger fillip by compelling employers to provide a scheme if they have more than 50 employees and they have requests from employees to do so.

All too often firms that are reluctant to start charitable schemes are willing to take any credit when their staff dig deep into their pockets to make it a success.

**Regulation of the investment industry is being tightened but it is a slow process**

## Fraudsters still have a few tricks up their sleeves

BY LINDSAY COOK, WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

INVESTORS seeking reassurance that more than five years after the Financial Services Act became law, savings cannot be siphoned off into yachts, flashy cars or the high living of any fraudulent salesman, are in for a disappointment.

New turmoil on the investor protection front means another financial scandal could already be in the making. The next 18 months are critical.

Three of the self-regulatory organisations established by the Financial Services Act are likely to be replaced by a new body as yet without a name. This will regulate all the investment businesses which deal with the public, apart from stockbrokers and futures dealers, who will retain their own regulatory organisation, the Securities and Futures Authority. The transition period could allow fraudsters to escape detection.

The Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which regulates 6,663 independent financial advisers, admits there are still problems. John Pinninger, Fimbra spokesman, said: "I would not for one moment say that another big fraud could not happen again. People will become fraudsters for all sorts of reasons. It is not always possible to identify them immediately. John Redwood [corporate affairs minister] is trying to get us to look for the early warning indicators."

The Securities and Investments Board said it did not believe that there would be additional fraud because of the changes taking place. It did, however, accept that during the transition parts of the system could be run-down. "Regulators must be able to distinguish between reasonable cost-cutting measures and those that would damage investor protection," a spokeswoman said.

Without tip-offs, Fimbra may not identify fraudulent activity for at least three years under the current system. Regular compliance visits take place once a year for the larger firms handling investors' money and once every three years for others.

Dunsdale Securities managed to escape detection for more than two years after it came under the regulation of Fimbra by using two sets of books. Its collapse was brought about by two requests for large withdrawals.

The demise of another large investment firm, whose principal is awaiting trial, is attributed to the vigilance of a journalist by Godfrey Jillings, the chief executive of Fimbra.

The association has revoked the licences of 594 brokers since April 1988 and 43 of its members are currently suspended and unable to carry out investment business. Because of the way the system works at present some members have resigned just ahead of expulsion and gone on to become the new agents of insurance companies.

Fimbra says: "There is pressure in the UK and Europe to bring about the regulation of individuals and not businesses. Currently, if a person foul-ups at one firm he can join a firm regulated by another body. This will be avoided by a single retail regulator."

Sir Kenneth Claeas is expected to finish his study of

There is pressure in the UK and Europe to bring about the regulation of individuals and not businesses'

the regulators in the next two weeks. This could lead to a changeover to a single retail body replacing Fimbra, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation and the Insurance Brokers Registration Council. The earliest this could happen is April next year and that would require willingness on the part of all parties. Some regulatory organisations do not want to be replaced.

Sir Kenneth may also recommend that one investor arbitration body deal with all complaints.

Since last April, 24 firms have been declared in default by the investors' compensation scheme, opening the way

for a partial office housing a one-man band operation could be cause for concern.

People should avoid being pressurised into putting all their money into one investment instead of spreading it over a range of safer and riskier investments. They should only invest if they understand what is going to happen to their money, and should not rush into things just because an adviser is encouraging them to sign up immediately, the booklet says.

SIB warns people to be wary if they are offered an unusually high rate of return. Alarm bells should also start ringing if an adviser suggests putting some money into a special scheme run by him but cannot give details.

Investors should resist pressure to cash in long-term policies such as life policies and give the money to the adviser to invest.

Rolls-Royces parked outside a



## Compensation on a sliding scale

TO date 2,439 people have received compensation from the Investors Compensation Scheme set up by the Securities and Investments Board. The most costly default was Dunsdale Securities, where 151 investors received £4.1 million last year. But because of the upper payment limit of £48,000 many investors in this and other schemes receive only a small proportion of their loss in compensation.

It pays out the first £30,000 of a legitimate claim in full and 90 per cent of the next £20,000. This has not been increased since the scheme started in 1988 and SIB has no plans to increase the ceiling in line with inflation.

The scheme only pays out if a firm is declared in default, which means it has had to have ceased trading.

The investment referee can pay out up to £100,000 and the arbitration scheme operated by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators for Fimbra has not been able to renegotiate cover at an acceptable premium.

The arbitration scheme offered by Fimbra deals with claims against companies that are still operating, as do the investment referee and insurance ombudsman. The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators has received 88 cases since the scheme was launched last year. The highest payout has been £29,000 to a woman who received bad advice.

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THE M&G NEW £6,000 PEP



# Concern mounts over BES property buyback

BY SARA MCCONNELL

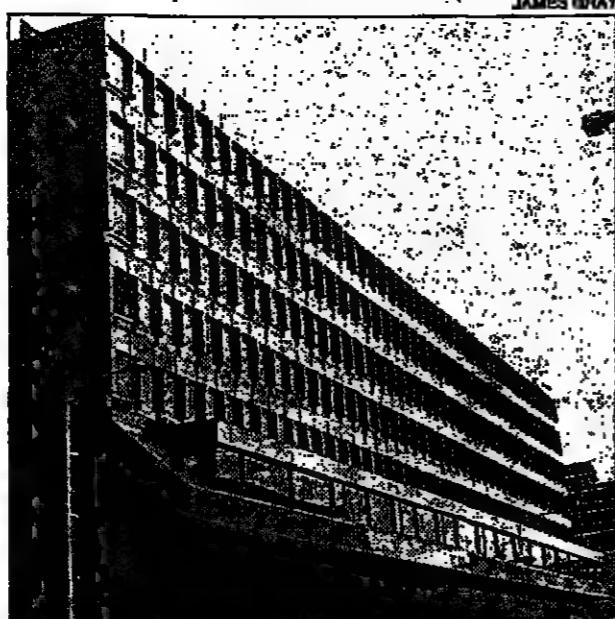
CONCERN is growing that housing associations which become involved in business expansion schemes (BESs) may not be able to meet commitments made to buy back properties from BES companies when these are wound up after five years.

BESs offering an assured exit are being heavily marketed, particularly as tax relief on them could be stopped in the Budget. These schemes claim to offer a guaranteed return through a contracted buyback of properties by a housing association or university. At the moment, higher rate taxpayers can get 40 per cent tax relief on up to £40,000 invested in any BES. The tax relief is allowed on the grounds that the schemes are risky, but assured-exit schemes are seen as less risky because of the guarantee.

The Housing Corporation, which regulates the activities of Britain's 2,300 registered housing associations, will emphasise in guidance notes to be issued next week that associations should not rely on being able to get a housing association grant to buy back properties.

The corporation said this week: "The guidance notes were first issued in 1988 but now there is specific concern that some housing associations may have been operating on the basis that they will automatically get a housing association grant to buy back properties to which they are committed under business expansion schemes. This is not the case and they will have to go through the normal procedures."

The associations have to tell the corporation of their involvement with a BES only if they have to seek a loan to buy property from a BES company. This means the corporation does not normally know which associations are committed and would not have been able to advise them to steer clear if they were less financially



Guidance: Housing Corporation offices in London

sound. Many BES sponsors, including Johnson Fry, John Govey and Dartington and Co, the stockbroker, are marketing assured-exit BESs involving housing associations. The BES companies buy properties and rent them to tenants of housing associations for five years. The associations are

**"The value of the shares in five years depends on the residential property market"**

bound to buy the properties back after five years at a price set when the scheme first buys the properties. This guarantees that investors will be able to sell their share in the company and make a profit. If the association cannot meet its obligations in five years, the BES company could be forced to sell on the open market, making investors wait longer for their money and giving them no guaranteed return.

John Spiers, editor of *BES: Investment*, the specialist

magazine, said: "If investors are not being offered a bank guarantee with an assured-exit scheme, they need to look at the strength of the covenant with the association or other institution. The net asset value of the housing association is meaningless because they have low rents, low turnover and they can't usually sell properties in a hurry." The best measure of a housing association's strength is to assume 5 per cent of its properties become vacant every year, Mr Spiers said. If they sold these properties then repaid any loans or grant, they would be financially healthy if the money raised from realising this proportion of properties exceeded their commitments under the BES.

Several schemes have allowed for this. Johnson

Fry's Ninth Super Growth Scheme, launched last week, has contracted five associations of which two would not be able to cover their commitments to the scheme after selling 5 per cent of their properties. The prospectus says both companies have agreed to set aside sums every year to build up a reserve.

John Govey's BES, Assured 2, depends on the ability of the Shafesbury housing association to finance the exit route for investors. The association has arranged a bank loan for £10 million and will set aside a further £3.4 million over the five years. The rate of interest has not yet been set.

Other schemes rely on the financial health of the association for their exit payments and investors should check the small print of the prospectuses.

If the housing association or other institution can afford to meet commitments, assured-exit schemes are still safer than assured-tenancy schemes, which carry no guarantee that investors will be able to sell and no fixed return. Assured-tenancy schemes have been in existence since 1988 but no investor has yet had the opportunity to test how easy it is to realise the property after five years as the schemes have not been in existence long enough.

Assured-tenancy schemes use investors' money to buy property as cheaply as possible, let it to tenants on an assured-tenancy basis for five years or less, then sell the properties.

The value of the shares in the company in five years depends on the state of the residential property market. If it is as depressed as it is now, investors could find themselves with unsaleable property on their hands. Any changes to legislation that give tenants more security of tenure could reduce returns.

Comment, page 19

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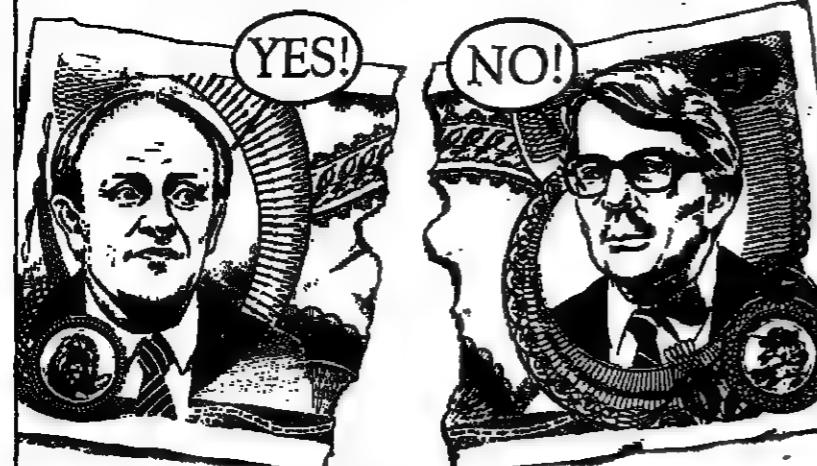
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Exotic risks: The Korean stock market is a volatile place which fell 45 per cent last year

## Emerging market funds await the SIB's blessing

**The sale of Korean and Mexican unit trusts may be permitted soon in Britain. Rupert Bruce considers the prospect**

IN A month, British savers may be able to buy unit trusts investing in Korea, and a little later Mexican unit trusts could be on the market. However, these have little in common with relatively stable investments like the big UK unit trusts.

So-called emerging stock markets are volatile places, and Korea and Mexico are no exceptions. According to Morgan Stanley Capital International, the Mexican stock market rose 122 per cent in 1991, and the Korean fell 45 per cent.

Kenneth King, investment director at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, said that when investing in emerging markets it was vital to be in at least ten to smooth out the ups and downs.

He said: "There is a familiar investment theory that says if you have 10 or 20 unrelated investments in 5 per cent chunks, you have a product that is not hugely volatile."

The Securities and Invest-

ment Board is awaiting replies to its proposals to allow Korean unit trusts, and if it does not receive any significant objections by the seventh of next month, will go ahead. It is also considering allowing Mexican unit trusts, but has not got as far as putting together proposals.

If the SIB does decide that Mexico or Korea are Recognised Investment Exchanges, unit trust managers will have the option of launching a unit trust, or increasing holdings in Mexico or Korea in existing unit trusts.

So far, only two unit trust managers have applied to the SIB to launch Korean unit trusts, and none has applied

to launch Mexican ones.

Baring Fund Managers

plans to launch a unit trust as soon as it can. GT Unit Managers also says it is looking at the possibility "quite closely".

Both have offshore funds

already invested in Korea, which, for the record, have performed badly along with the stock market. Microcap statistics show an investment of £1,000 in the Baring fund would have almost halved in the three years to the end of 1991, to only £523.90. The same sum invested in the GT fund at the beginning of last December would only be worth £853.80 by the beginning of January.

Both of these funds are

based in Bermuda for tax reasons, and here lies the real motivation for wanting to launch UK unit trusts. Bermuda does not have a taxation treaty with Korea, while Britain does. So, if the Bermuda-based trusts want to invest directly in the Korean stock market, they have to pay Korean capital gains tax.

Kate Woollett, Barlog Fund Managers' managing director, said: "We are not launching it necessarily as our view on the market. We have a fund in Bermuda that has adverse tax problems. That is what is driving our decision. It is not that we are saying now is the time to buy Korea."

Baring will give holders of its \$26.8 million offshore fund the chance to switch into the unit trust, which will also be marketed through financial advisers.

Most fund managers only plan to use the rules, if they come in, to increase the Korean or Mexican holdings of existing funds.

Two fixed-rates of just over

10 per cent for two or three years are on offer from some lenders, as are first-time buyer discounts.

The Nationwide building society will lend money at a fixed rate of 9.95 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 11.8 per cent) for three years. The mortgage is available on a repayment or endowment basis. However, borrowers have to arrange their buildings and contents insurance through the society and to take out mortgage protection cover, which will cover repayments if a borrower is ill, has an accident or is made redundant. Apart from an arrangement fee of £150, there is a redemption payment of six months' interest if the loan is redeemed in the first two years or three months' interest if it is redeemed in the third year. The fixed rate can be transferred to a new property without penalty.

Those who complete their purchase before April 30 can get their rate fixed at 10 per cent (APR 11.5 per cent) for two years through Chase de Vere, the independent mortgage broker. Endowment, pension, interest only and repayment mortgages all qualify, but there is an arrangement fee of £150, of which £150 is payable on completion. There is a redemption charge of three months' interest in the fixed period.

Two fixed-rates of just over 10 per cent are on offer from the Norwich & Peterborough building society, one of 10.25 per cent (APR 11.7 per cent) fixed for two years and one of 10.4 per cent (APR 11.7 per cent) fixed for three years.

Discounts for first-time buyers are on offer from the Abbey National and the Midland. First-time buyers borrowing less than £60,000 will pay 9.24 per cent until July 30, 1993, a discount of 1.75 per cent. The rate on loans between £60,000 and £100,000 is 8.8 per cent for first-time buyers, while those borrowing more than £100,000 will pay 8.65 per cent. The rates are higher for those borrowing more than 30 per cent of the value of the property.

The Midland has cut its standard mortgage rate from 11.45 per cent (APR 12.1 per cent) to 10.95 per cent (APR 11.5 per cent). First-time buyers will get a 1 per cent discount for the first 12 months.

## Phone link to aid tax refund claims

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A FREE telephone service begins tomorrow to help non-taxpayers obtain refunds of tax they should not have paid. Up to 8 million people have paid too much tax since last April, when the tax system for savings was changed.

This is the official estimate of how many non-taxpayers are still having tax deducted from their savings accounts when interest could be paid gross. Those who are earning £60 a week or less, including children, who have not registered for interest on accounts to be paid without deduction of tax can telephone 0800 06 0800 between 8 am and 8 pm seven days a week.

Local tax offices will be connected with callers. The Revenue estimates that when an application form is filled in, it may take only five days for the refund cheque to arrive with the saver. The telephone staff will also help non-taxpayers reclaim tax deducted from dividends or unit trust distributions.

To date, 13 million accounts belonging to about 7 million savers have been registered for gross payment of interest. Many other savers will be unaware that they can earn 33 per cent more immediately on their interest. A large number will have income levels close to their personal allowance and have been deterred from registering accounts in case their income rises in the last couple of months of the year, making them taxpayers.

Those whose income is just above their personal allowance cannot register for gross interest but can claim back tax deducted on any savings income below the threshold when they obtain a certificate of interest from their bank or building society if the tax involved is £50 or more. If it is less, they have to wait until April 5 to claim.



On-line: Brenda Deguid

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\*Planned Savings, June 1991.

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Lenders in rare scaring business

## Be an angel and put cash in the wings

Rodney Hobson reviews the pros and cons of the theatre as an investment

ISLINGTON is best known for The Angel on the Monopoly board. Now it is making a name for another speculative investment, again involving angels.

For the third time in 12 months, The King's Head Theatre is seeking financial backing to transfer a show to the West End. It is offering members of the public the chance to invest £500 each in *Spread a Little Happiness*, a musical revue that has enjoyed full houses during a six week run in Islington.

Investing in theatrical productions is, in the candid words of the prospectus, "extremely speculative and carries a high degree of risk".

Shares taken by theatre angels, as the backers are popularly known, are virtually unsaleable and if the play flops the whole investment is lost. However, even a modest run will ensure that the angels get part of their money back, and a highly successful

show can repay its backers within a month.

*Spread a Little Happiness* is based on the work of Vivian Ellis, a friend of Noel Coward and Ivor Novello and the last great survivor of the composers who made the British musical before the war. He co-wrote *Bless the Bride*, among other successes.

The King's Head, which seats about 120, is negotiating to transfer the revue in March to a West End theatre seating more than 650. With start-up costs of £120,000 and running costs of £22,000 a week, the theatre must average 40 per cent houses to avoid financial failure.

However, since all costs except royalties are fixed, the financial effect of playing to fuller houses is dramatic. Even a half full theatre will repay all costs within 16 weeks. Selling 90 per cent of tickets would mean a profit after only four weeks.

The King's Head, tucked

away behind a pub of the same name, has gained a reputation in theatrical circles as a trial ground for new productions, since it was founded in 1970 by Dan Crawford, still the venue's driving force.

Last April it raised backing to transfer *My Lovely Shayna Maidel*. This was not a financial success. However, later in

the year *Kwetch*, an award winning play, recouped its costs and showed a small surplus despite going to the West End for only a fixed 11-week run.

The King's Head also sent *A Slice of Saturday Night* on tour with Gary Glitter and produced almost 30 per cent profit for its angels. Most have reinvested for a repeat

tour starring Alvin Stardust. Many angels are connected with theatreland.

Ivan Hale, associate producer at the King's Head, says: "We also get a cross section of the public. Some do it for philanthropic reasons, others purely as a bit of fun like the Grand National or the Derby. Many believe it is a reasonable investment and

it is an exciting venture to be part of."

Frank Thornton, known on television as Captain Peacock in the comedy series *Grace and Favour*, is among five cast members who will transfer with the play.

*Prospectus from the King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 1QN.*



Funding performance: The musical *Spread a Little Happiness* needs backing to transfer to the West End

## Counsellors overwhelmed by growing debt queues

NEXT week the Council of Mortgage Lenders will officially announce how many people lost their homes last year. Most of them will also have had other debts but many will not have been able to get any debt counselling (Lindsay Cook writes).

Money advice centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux are having to turn away people whose homes are at serious risk or who face court appearances for other debts. Waiting lists of a month or more for the first debt counselling appointment are not uncommon as money advice support units struggle to train people to do the often voluntary work.

In Liverpool, Barclays Bank is paying £50,000 a year to the city's money advice unit, almost the total running cost. The nationwide Building Society has just agreed to take over sponsorship of the London Money Support Unit for the next three years at a cost of £245,000. Citibank had undertaken the last three years' support.

However, such funding is difficult to come by for debt counsellors and training units. This week Edward Leigh, consumer affairs min-

ister, asked building societies to reconsider their refusal to give any financial support to the Money Advice Trust. This body was set up in 1990 to channel funding to debt advice agencies. Those societies that have contributed have preferred to make direct donations. These totalled £63,000 last year.

The Money Advice Trust wants £3 million and had



Overstretched: Kevin Wong, of the Liverpool money advice unit, with Judith Riley, of the NACAB

hoped that societies would donate £10 for every £1 million they lend. This would cost large societies up to £50,000 a year. The trust has been pledged a total of £349,000 and staff to the value of £450,000 have been seconded.

## How to dodge a false pot

By CONAL GREGORY

ART and antique dealers and their trade associations are trying to emphasise the ways in which investors can purchase with confidence, following news that a court case is pending over allegedly fraudulent pottery.

The leading UK body for antique dealers, the British Antique Dealers' Association, founded in 1918, has established two mechanisms to help those with doubts over the authenticity of a piece.

BADA's assessment service will issue a written certificate with a full description of an object, which is invaluable for both insurance purposes and if a

sale is contemplated. The association convenes a panel of not less than three authorities in the field, not necessarily its members. The cost is £150 plus VAT and the commentary will include whether there have been additions, such as later handles or feet, or restoration, which can drastically affect the value.

Where there is "reasonable doubt" between dealers or between an investor and a dealer, BADA offers its Arbitration service, which is free.

The much larger and less exclusive London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association (LAPADA) runs a conciliation service when the individual dealer member cannot resolve a dispute. LAPADA's code of practice requires dealers not only to state the full price but to give a full description, including the material used, the artist's name and if any major restoration has been effected.

By comparison, an auctioneer places the responsibility upon the bidder. Investors using an auction house can normally only secure redress if they can show the article was a fake or forgery.

Authorities at the national museums and galleries, as well as at regional ones, can offer individual opinions. The British Museum will see objects Monday to Friday from 2pm-4.30pm, such as antique maps and prints. The Victoria and Albert Museum offers a similar service

on Tuesday afternoons, covering all the applied arts (2.30pm-4.30pm) and the National Gallery similarly on Wednesday afternoons (2.30pm-5.00pm).

For certain materials, Oxford University's Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art will undertake investigations into the age of an object. Mr Rupert Housley uses radio carbon dating for wood but advises this method is not always safe for post 1650.

Professor Teddy Hall has pioneered work on porcelain and pottery using the thermo-luminescence technique. For a fee of £130-£170 plus VAT, depending upon the complexity, the laboratory will use the most appropriate scientific measurement. Mrs Doreen Stoneham says 30-40 per cent of the ceramics submitted are identified as fakes. The service is used by dealers, auctioneers and their clients.

Mr Michael Graham, a noted London English porcelain dealer, says: "It is easy to tell copies. The original materials used were distinctive." Mr Graham says he can identify copies of Chelsea, Derby and Worcester "instantly", as he can for the Regency period where the glazing should be close. "After 1860, it is much more difficult." He is careful with early 19th century copies of 18th century Meissen and with redecorated Sévres.

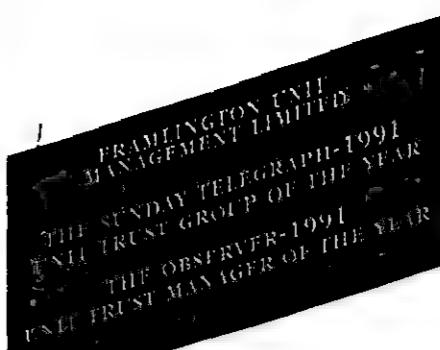
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## MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD

6th FEBRUARY 1992

### THE VIEW FROM SAVE & PROSPER

UK market shows modest rise... US consumer confidence at last begins to return... Tokyo market looking a little less volatile... Pacific region markets enjoy a strong surge... Germany still dominates European market sentiment.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

Market gaining confidence.

■ Share prices rose 3% in January and we believe a year-end target of 2,850 on the 'Footsie' is achievable, which would represent a rise of 11% above the market's current level.

■ Market is starting to anticipate a 0.5% interest rate cut close to the March 10th Budget. This should be made possible by sterling's recent strength against the deutschmark.

■ Mortgages for first-time buyers are now at their cheapest for 13 years - this should stimulate the housing market and help kick-start the economy. But consumer confidence and demand still remain sluggish and the latest CBI survey was only faintly encouraging.

■ Patchy company results mean that dividends are likely to be held or even cut.

We, however, believe that the market will soon begin looking forward to a resumption of year-on-year profits growth.

#### UNITED STATES

Market valuations looking overstretched.

■ The market has risen 12% since the last interest rate cut on 20th December 1991. However, though cash on deposit is unattractive at around 3%, US equity values are also now looking somewhat overstretched on a 17-times price/earnings multiple.

■ The recent G7 summit meeting stressed that economic recovery should be under way by mid-1992. This should help strengthen the dollar and also boost President Bush's re-election prospects.

■ Domestic output was up 0.3% in the 4th quarter of last year, an encouraging indication that the US has avoided a 'double dip' recession.

■ Consumer confidence has at last also shown signs of picking up in January, with improved hotel bookings and increased spending on leisure activities.

#### JAPAN

Increasing support at current levels.

■ The recent falls in share prices proved to be greater than we expected. Though unlikely, if the market were to dip much below its current level, it would pose severe problems for Japanese banks and also result in serious international repercussions.

■ There are, however, more signs of optimism in the market. Foreign investors remain active buyers and, more significantly, domestic institutions are returning to the market.

■ At 2%, inflation is well under control and the rate of economic growth in 1992 is expected to slow to 3%. The Bank of Japan has confirmed that more interest rate cuts are possible in order to stimulate the economy.

later than that poses the risk of denting market confidence.

■ Amongst international bond markets, we favour European bonds most, because of the scope for interest rate cuts later this year.

■ For 1992, France is currently our favoured European market, as we expect it to be a strong beneficiary from the EC Single Market. The French economy is also bound to enjoy a welcome boost from the opening of EuroDisney near Paris in April.

#### CURRENT RECOMMENDED SAVE & PROSPER FUNDS

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##### SOUTH EAST ASIA

Starting the year strongly.

■ Most Asian stock markets have risen strongly in January. In our view, there is little downside risk and we are confident that further gains will be made.

■ Investor confidence remains good in Hong Kong, helped by the improving political relations between the colony, China and Britain. The market should also be driven upwards by renewed interest in property development.

■ We also expect the Thai market to perform well, as it anticipates a recovery in company earnings and a better political environment.

■ The Japanese market has shown signs of picking up in January, with improved hotel bookings and increased spending on leisure activities.

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## REVISED INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 8 FEBRUARY 1992

### CURRENT ISSUES

MONTHLY INCOME ACCOUNT		% Gross	% Gross CAR <sup>1</sup>	% Net <sup>2</sup>	% Net CAR <sup>1</sup>
£40,000 or more		10.48	11.00	7.86	8.15
£25,000 - £39,999		10.03	10.50	7.52	7.78
£10,000 - £24,999		9.34	9.75	7.01	7.24
£2,500 - £9,999		8.42	8.75	6.32	6.51

MONEYSPINNER CLASSIC (Annual Interest)					
£40,000 or more		10.80	-	8.10	-
£25,000 - £39,999		10.30	-	7.73	-
£10,000 - £24,999		9.53	-	7.16	-
£500 - £9,999		8.55	-	6.41	-
£1 - £499		2.50	-	1.88	-

CURRENT ACCOUNT					
£25,000 or more		10.07	10.33	7.55	7.82
£10,000 - £24,999		8.83	9.20	6.62	6.82
£2,500 - £9,999		8.23	8.55	6.17	6.35
£1,000 - £2,499		5.03	5.15	3.77	3.84
£1 - £999		3.83	3.90	2.87	2.91

BASIC SAVINGS RATE					
		2.50	-	1.88	-

### MAIN DISCONTINUED ISSUES

ECLIPSE (Monthly Interest)		% Gross	% Gross CAR <sup>1</sup>	% Net <sup>2</sup>	% Net CAR <sup>1</sup>
£50,000 or more		10.94	11.50	8.21	8.53
£25,000 - £49,999		10.48	11.00	7.86	8.15
£10,000 - £24,999		9.80	10.25	7.35	7.60
£5,000 - £9,999		9.11	9.30	6.83	7.05
£1 - £4,999		2.50	2.53	1.88	1.90

MONEYSPINNER 90					
£50,000 or more		9.45	-	7.09	-
£25,000 - £49,999		9.00	-	6.75	-
£10,000 - £24,999		8.25	-	6.19	-
£5,000 - £9,999		8.00	-	6.00	-
£1 - £4,999		2.50	-	1.88	-

MONEYSPINNER CLASSIC (Monthly Interest)					
£40,000 or more		10.30	10.80	7.73	8.01
£25,000 - £39,999		9.84	10.30	7.38	7.63
£10,000 - £24,999		9.16	9.55	6.87	7.09
£5,000 - £9,999		8.23	8.55	6.17	6.35
£1 - £4,999		2.50	2.53	1.88	1.90

MONEYSPINNER PLUS					
£20,000 or more		8.30	-	6.23	-
£10,000 - £19,999		7.80	-	5.85	-
£5,000 - £9,999		7.35	-	5.51	-
£1 - £4,999		6.90	-	5.18	-
		2.50	-	1.88	-

MONEYSPINNER GROSS					
£10,000 or more		9.00	-	6.75	-
£5,000 - £9,999		8.75	-	6.56	-
£1 - £4,999		8.50	-	6.38	-

CAPITAL GROWTH BOND					
£10,000 or more		9.90	-	7.43	-
£1 - £4,999		2.50	-	1.88	-

PRIMA BOND					
£10,000 or more		9.90	-	7.43	-
£1 - £4,999		2.50	-	1.88	-

PREMIER GROWTH BOND					
£25,000 or more		7.60	-	5.70	-
£10,000 - £24,999		6.65	-	4.99	-
£1 - £4,999		2.50	-	1.88	-

PREFERENCE & SAVINGS SHARES					
		2.50	-	1.88	-

Rates may vary.  
\* Computed Annual Rate is the annual return on your savings if monthly interest payments are retained in the account.  
\*\* Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax presently 25% (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required registration, gross.  
Interest rates on investment accounts no longer available and not listed, are available on request.

**NORTHERN ROCK**  
Northern Rock Building Society. Principal Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone 091 285 7191.

### Long wait for cheque to clear

From Dr T.B. Birns

Sir, I have just been told by the Nationwide Building Society that it takes seven working days to clear a cheque. This is worse than it sounds because Saturdays don't count, nor do the days of paying in or subsequent withdrawal. Hence, on money paid in today, January 31, a withdrawal cannot be made until February 12. Nowadays it seems quite unnecessary and unacceptable.

I also learned that a cheque paid in today will not start to earn interest until February 5 — the third

## Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these to your running total of the day's changes to get the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have soon caught or a share of the total weekly prize money available to you. If not, repeat the procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card so visible when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Burns & McDonnell	Building/Rds	
2	Bluedot	Industrial	
3	Brewer-Stewart	Building/Rds	
4	Lykes Bros	Telexes	
5	Davies Newson	Transport	
6	LSI Logic	Building/Rds	
7	Alfred Celioidis	Chem. Plus	
8	Central TV	Leisure	
9	New Int'l	Newspaper/Pub.	
10	Nat West Bk	Banks/Div	
11	API	Paper/Print	
12	Laser-Sonic	Electrical	
13	RAA	Transport	
14	Dowson	Telexes	
15	Quigley	Building/Rds	
16	Honeyuckles	Drapery/Sts	
17	Manvers-Sw	Electrical	
18	Bellway	Building/Rds	
19	Union Dist	Banks/Div	
20	BR Polymers	Industrial	
21	Sage Cpl	Electrical	
22	Grand Met	Breweries	
23	Vickers	Industrial	
24	Central Mir	Microns/Air	
25	Allbright	Building/Rds	
26	Medicorp	Industrial	
27	Uni Scientific	Electrical	
28	Rolls-Royce	Microns/Air	
29	Morkland	Breweries	
30	Smith David	Food/Paper	
31	Patis	Food	
32	Sun TV	Leisure	
33	Headline	Newspaper/Pub.	
34	Abbey	Building/Rds	
35	Wasell	Industrial	
36	TV-am	Leisure	
37	Fragmire	Property	
38	Iceland Frozen	Food	
39	Stand Craft	Banks/Div	
40	Rosk	Industrial	
41	ADA	Industrial	
42	Clarke Foods	Food	
43	Midland	Banks/Div	
44	Sourcex	Industrial	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains or the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Sun

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Robert Haime, of Solihull.

No	Company	Group	Price	High	Low	Yield	%	P/E
1	ABF	Electronics	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
2	ACT Group	Electrical	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
3	Acorn Computer	Electrical	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
4	Alcon	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
5	Alconic	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
6	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
7	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
8	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
9	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
10	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
11	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
12	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
13	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
14	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
15	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
16	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
17	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
18	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
19	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
20	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
21	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
22	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
23	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
24	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
25	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
26	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
27	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
28	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
29	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
30	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
31	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
32	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
33	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
34	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
35	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
36	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
37	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
38	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
39	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
40	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
41	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
42	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
43	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
44	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
45	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
46	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
47	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
48	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
49	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
50	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
51	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
52	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
53	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
54	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
55	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
56	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
57	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
58	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
59	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
60	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
61	Alconic Int'l	Alpharm	12.50	12.50	12.50	1.25	1.25	12.50
62	Alconic Int'l</td							

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

# Cubs' relations cool after frozen cup-tie

## England forward pair stand down from club games

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the postponement of today's league fixtures, England's leading clubs concentrate instead on the rescheduled fourth round of the Pilkington Cup, and nowhere with greater intensity than at Sudbury, the home of Wasps.

The spotlight rests, once again, on Wasps' opponents, Harlequins — in part because they have been joined by yet another potential England player, to the frustration of his former club, and in part because the fortnight's delay in playing a match which Wasps believed to be playable on the original cup date has permitted the return of the suspended Troy Coker.

Harlequins believe themselves to be much misunderstood. If Simon Dear should choose to leave Roslyn Park and contest a second-round place with Coker, Neil Edwards, Mark Russell and Steve Shortland, that, they say, is his decision.

Wasps are aching for the game and I hope the coaches of both clubs have told their players that discretion should be their watchword, regardless of the disagreement on a frozen January 25. These London derbies have occasionally got out of hand.

Harlequins are without Skinner, who favours a bruised shoulder, and Wasps are without Probyn. Both would probably have played had not England's game with France been just over the horizon.

On that topic, David Sole, Scotland's captain, said yesterday: "While the internationals are very special and there is a lot more importance attached to them, I still enjoy playing club games, because, in many respects from my point of view, there is less pressure on me." So Sole turns out for Edinburgh Academicals in their McEwan's league match at Jedburgh.

Harlequins are also without Bray, and field the young Chairman at stand-off half, but they still have a sparkling array of ten capped players, which should ensure the 1,000 tickets available at the Sudbury gate are snapped up.

There is no shortage of caps either at Northampton, where Bath, six-times cup winners in the last nine years, visit Northampton in the other first-division cup tie. "We want to emulate Bath's cup and league dominance, and we cannot even start doing that until we have

Devonshire are paired at lock, but Hunter (wing) faces a late fitness test. Thirrock, looking to become the first junior club in the quarter-finals, hope to bring 2,000 supporters from Exeter.

### Sale v Orrell

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Wasps play Division of Rights' head prop in place of Probyn for the third cup meeting between the clubs. The fortnight's delay has allowed Coker to make a return from a shoulder injury, while Coker, who has been a great ambassador for his country, Keith Alderson, Waterloo's secretary, said.

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**Pontypool v Newbridge**  
Pontypool, overhauled at the top by new coach, Steve Tandy, are without the suspended Gwynn of No. 8. Newbridge have not beaten their Gwent neighbours for nine years and include in their squad Sutton, a score of two tries in the cup win against Maesteg.

**Northampton v Bath**  
The postponement has allowed Tebbutt time to recover fitness and he plays in Northampton's team, too, as a strength with nine internationals and have a league win over Northampton this season to sustain them, though they never met in the cup.

**Roslyn Park v Thurrock**  
Roslyn Park have Holt available at stand-off for the first time this season, Fowles and

Devonshire are paired at lock, but Hunter (wing) faces a late fitness test. Thirrock, looking to become the first junior club in the quarter-finals, hope to bring 2,000 supporters from Exeter.

**Sale v Orrell**  
Mike Kenrick, recovered from back leg, plays in Sale's back row alongside captain, preferred to open-side flanker, Mike Orrell. He has the experience of Cleary instead of the injured Asturias for the third cup meeting between the clubs. The friendly, last Saturday, was drawn.

**Wasps v Harlequins**  
Wasps play Division of Rights' head prop in place of Probyn for the third cup meeting between the clubs. The fortnight's delay has allowed Coker to make a return from a shoulder injury, while Coker, who has been a great ambassador for his country, Keith Alderson, Waterloos secretary, said.

Waterloo are paired at lock with Newland, who plays in the third cup meeting between the clubs. The friendly, last Saturday, was drawn.

**Pontypool v Newbridge**  
Pontypool, overhauled at the top by new coach, Steve Tandy,



THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
12.50 Granvillewaterford.	12.20 Granvillewaterford.	2.00 Spanish Servant.
12.50 Remittance Man.	12.50 Remittance Man.	
1.25 Knight Oil.	1.25 Knight Oil.	
2.00 Native Mission.	2.00 VIKING	
2.35 WATERLOO BOY (nap).	FLAGSHIP (nap).	
3.10 Pegwell Bay.	2.35 My Young Man.	
3.45 Cooley's Valve.	3.10 Buckshot Boy.	
4.15 Dwdame.	3.45 Valiant Warrior.	
	4.15 Driver.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.15 DRIVER.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM ON BENDS (CHASE COURSE)

(Qualifier: £3,457; 2m 4f) (4 runners)

101 110-21 GRANVILLEWATERFORD 44 (D.F.S) (Mrs D Stimpson) S Sherwood 7-11-12	J Osborne
102 143-111 NORMAN CONQUEROR 44 (D.F.S) (Mrs J Thorson) Jones 7-11-12	P Scudmore
103 27-31 BEAN DREAMS 45 (Mrs N Harper) M Muggleton 7-11-12	W Irvine
104 020-610 MR VERGETTE 42 (F) (Mrs M Rogers) D Nicholson 8-11-12	R Dwdame

BETTING: 1-2 Granvillewaterford, 5-2 Norman Conqueror, 8-1 Mr Vergette, 25-1 Bean Dreams.

1981: MEETING ABANDONED - FROST

12.50 ARLINGTON PREMIER SERIES CHASE FINAL

(£19,920; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

201 8-211-1 ARLINGTON 44 (D.F.S) (Mrs J Thorson) S Sherwood 7-11-12	L O'Hearn
202 5-121-2 CAPTAIN DIBBLE 44 (D.F.S) (Mrs P Vaughan) R Twiston-Davies 7-11-12	P Scudmore
203 88-805-5 HERBIE OF FUN 22 (F) (A Stowe) C Pochan 8-11-12	P Hobbs
204 12-141-1 MIGHTY FALCON 35 (D.F.S) (R Tony) D Ellsworth 7-11-12	G Bradley
205 111-111 REMITTANCE MAN 44 (D.F.S) (Mrs J Thorson) N Handeson 8-11-12	R Dwdame

BETTING: 1-2 Granvillewaterford, 5-2 Norman Conqueror, 8-1 Mr Vergette, 25-1 Bean Dreams.

1981 (Run at Cheltenham): AL HASHMI 7-1-7 G McCourt 4-1 D Nicholson 5-1

1991 (Run at Cheltenham): AL HASHMI 7-1-7 G McCourt 4-1 D Nicholson 5-1

FORM FOCUS

ARMAGRET has been Gold Haven 316ft in Brumley Heywood (2m 4f, good) chases; previously best Pegwell Bay 21 (2m 4f, good); 1st CAPTAIN DIBBLE 2nd to 9 in Mutes in Grade 1 British Fethers Novice Chase at Kempton (3m, good); earlier 8th 2nd of 4 to 1st CAPTAIN DIBBLE 2nd to 9 in Tattersalls 7-11-12 (good); previously best REMITTANCE MAN 3rd of 9 to 2nd in The Falloper in Grade 1 King George VI Chase at Kempton (3m, good); earlier 8th 2nd of 4 to 1st CAPTAIN DIBBLE 2nd to 9 in Tattersalls 7-11-12 (good); previously best HEIGHT OF FUN 2nd of 3 to Skimble in Kempton (3m, good); earlier 8th 2nd of 4 to 1st CAPTAIN DIBBLE 2nd to 9 in Tattersalls 7-11-12 (good); Selection: REMITTANCE MAN
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1.25 BYRNE BROTHERS COMPTON CHASE

(£10,700; 3m) (2 runners)

301 028-102 KNIGHT OIL 7 (B.C.D.F.G.S) (R A Bell) (Wigmore St) Ltd C Sherwood 8-11-12	J Osborne
302 22-102 PRIVATE AUDITION 25 (F) (F Hubbard) F Murphy 10-11-12	A Maguire

BETTING: 2-8 Knight Oil, 7-2 Private Audition.

FORM FOCUS

KNIGHT OIL 8th of 9 to Nodiron in Cheltenham (2m 4f, soft) handicap chase; previously best Pegwell Bay 21 (2m 4f, good); PRIVATE AUDITION 27th of 13 to Ambassador in Folkestone (2m, good)
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1.20 TOTE GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£20,405; 2m 100yd) (16 runners)

401 8-539-2 JUNGLE KNIFE 21 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs M Tompkins) 8-11-10	A Maguire
402 0-005-4 SHANNON GLEN 21 (S) (Mrs J Hobbs) Mrs J Hobbs 8-11-12	P Scudmore
403 165-022 IMPERIAL SERVANT 26 (S.C.D.F.G.S) (P Fulton) D Ellsworth 8-11-12	A McCabe
404 4-100-2 SPANISH SERVANT 26 (S.C.D.F.G.S) (D Phillips) R Alford 8-11-12	J Hallen
405 13-100-1 SPANISH SERVANT 26 (S.C.D.F.G.S) (D Phillips) R Alford 8-11-12	R Strong
406 131-155 BOARDING SCHOOL 49 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs G Green) C Parker 8-11-12	R Strong
407 122-24 NATURE MISSION 28 (D.F.G.S) (A Burke) (Squires) Limited 1 J Fitzgerald 8-10-13	M Dwyer
408 8-143-2 ONE FOR THE POT 70 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs J Whiddon) Mrs J Whiddon 7-10-12	G Dwyer
409 5-111-11 RIDEON STAR 29 (D.F.G.S) (J Bradbury) N Threlfall 8-10-12	S McCourt
410 18-202-4 OLD FOLLY 29 (D.F.G.S) (P Kean) Mrs J Hobbs 8-10-12	P Scudmore
411 20-202-4 HIGHWAY STAR 29 (D.F.G.S) (P Kean) Mrs J Hobbs 8-10-12	A Procter
412 20-202-6 BOOKMADE 44 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs D Ellsworth) D Ellsworth 8-10-12	D Morris
413 1-272-6 MARLINGFORD 7 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs J Jordan) J Jordan 8-10-12	P Hobbs
414 16-044-1 VIKING FLAGSHIP 7 (D.F.G.S) (Foodie) Limited 1 D Nicholson 8-10-12	B O'Farrell
415 0-058-4 KIRBY 10 (D.F.G.S) (D Smeister) D Ellsworth 8-10-12	R Strong
416 10-025-6 GALAXY HIGH 7 (D.F.G.S) (P Lester) P Lester 8-10-12	R Strong

Long handicap: Galaxy High 8-11.

BETTING: 1-2 Native Mission, 6-1 Galaxy Star, 8-1 Jungle Knife, 10-1 Driver.

FORM FOCUS

KNIGHT OIL 8th of 9 to Nodiron in Cheltenham (2m 4f, soft) handicap chase; previously best Pegwell Bay 21 (2m 4f, good); PRIVATE AUDITION 27th of 13 to Ambassador in Folkestone (2m, good)
---

2.00 TOTE GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£20,405; 2m 100yd) (16 runners)

1 401 8-539-2 JUNGLE KNIFE 21 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs M Tompkins) 8-11-10	A Maguire
2 0-005-4 SHANNON GLEN 21 (S) (Mrs J Hobbs) Mrs J Hobbs 8-11-12	P Scudmore
3 165-022 IMPERIAL SERVANT 26 (S.C.D.F.G.S) (P Fulton) D Ellsworth 8-11-12	A McCabe
4 4-100-2 SPANISH SERVANT 26 (S.C.D.F.G.S) (D Phillips) R Alford 8-11-12	J Hallen
5 13-100-1 SPANISH SERVANT 26 (S.C.D.F.G.S) (D Phillips) R Alford 8-11-12	R Strong
6 131-233 BOARDING SCHOOL 49 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs G Green) C Parker 8-11-12	R Strong
7 122-24 NATURE MISSION 28 (D.F.G.S) (A Burke) (Squires) Limited 1 J Fitzgerald 8-10-13	M Dwyer
8 0-022-6 GALAXY HIGH 7 (D.F.G.S) (P Lester) P Lester 8-10-12	A Procter

Long handicap: Galaxy High 8-11.

BETTING: 1-2 Native Mission, 6-1 Galaxy Star, 8-1 Jungle Knife, 10-1 Driver.

FORM FOCUS

KNIGHT OIL 8th of 9 to Nodiron in Cheltenham (2m 4f, soft) handicap chase; previously best Pegwell Bay 21 (2m 4f, good); PRIVATE AUDITION 27th of 13 to Ambassador in Folkestone (2m, good)
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1.40 TOWN AND COUNTY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,102; 2m 2m) (16 runners)

1 410 FOX CHAPPEL 44 (B.C.D.F.G.S) (A Sarge) (Squires) Limited 8-11-10	D Byrnes
2 008-129 BAHTARO 91 (D.F.) (A Cohen) Mrs A King 8-11-10	C Llewellyn
3 202 FALCON DAWN 12 (V) (Mrs A King) Mrs A King 8-11-10	N Mean
4 080-121 UGANDA AFFAIRS 71 (A Carter) Mrs J Retter 7-11-11	M A Pocock
5 130-121 FORGOTTEN FATHER 71 (V) (Mrs E White) Mrs E White 7-11-11	J Hallen
6 489-120 SWEDISH MUFFET 22 (S) (G Squires) Mrs J Squires 8-11-10	J Hobbs
7 11 BALWAN 22 (D.F.) (P J Davies) P Davies 7-10-12	R Strong
8 228-226 KILLUAZ KING 25 (P) (Mrs J Thorson) J Thorson 8-10-12	R Strong
9 020-120 CRAZY HORSE DANCES 22 (A Brymer) F Brymer 8-10-12	J Loder
10 882-ROSEY NATION 17 (GLD) (Mrs J Thorson) J Thorson 8-10-12	C Llewellyn
11 020-120 CRAZY HORSE DANCES 22 (A Brymer) F Brymer 8-10-12	C Llewellyn
12 020-120 CRAZY HORSE DANCES 22 (A Brymer) F Brymer 8-10-12	C Llewellyn
13 020-120 CRAZY HORSE DANCES 22 (A Brymer) F Brymer 8-10-12	C Llewellyn
14 020-120 CRAZY HORSE DANCES 22 (A Brymer) F Brymer 8-10-12	C Llewellyn

Long handicap: Rosey Nation 17-18 (F) (Mrs J Thorson) J Thorson 8-10-12.

BETTING: 1-2 Native Mission, 5-1 Fox Chapel, 10-1 Another Soldier, 12-1 Street, 10-1 others.

David Miller, chief sports correspondent, argues that the Winter Olympics will never be the same again

## Albertville serves up a taste of Games to come

**I**t is going to take some remarkable performances by exceptional competitors, such as Heinzer, on the downhill, Nieminen, off the ski jumps, or Isabell and Paul Duchesnay, in the ice dancing, to bind as a coherent unit the XVI Winter Olympic Games that open today at Albertville, one of 13 competitive sites. Certainly, the French organisation is unlikely to bind the event and, in prospect, it is only television that will give the Games a collective identity.

There lies the danger and, possibly, a foretaste of the future. If the Games of Albertville, spread over 600 square miles, should prove to be successful — in spite of handicaps, natural and human, without parallel — there will be every reason in future for accepting a Games staged at multiple towns and villages.

In other words, regional Games, television orientated, rather than an event traditionally hosted by a single city. In February 1992, Albertville is no more than close to where the new TGV conveniently halts at Moûtiers. It

is almost the only convenient thing about these Games.

After the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to award the 1980 Winter Games to the cramped and incompetent upstate New York winter resort of Lake Placid, there was the bold and satisfactory venture into new territory at Sarajevo — a facility now sadly in decline, in common with the country — and then the first big-city Winter Games at Calgary.

The fulfilment of Samaranch's prediction will mean a simultaneous but separated gathering of world championships, linked only by television. I shall be glad to be retired, happy to have experienced what seem likely to be the last of the conventional Winter Games before they were compromised by their own success.

It is not only the disparate nature of the Albertville Games that will make them different. These are the first to experience the demise of the two great national powers of winter sports, the Soviet Union and German Democratic Republic, broken by the collapse of communism.

much with Innsbruck, Finland, which has no mountains, with Östersund in Sweden; and so on.

That, at least for the Winter Games, can mean the beginning of the end of the Olympic ethic, that special chemistry of taking part, the sense of being involved in something unique as demonstrated so eloquently at Calgary by Judd Banker, the first Olympic competitor from Guam, at the back of the field in Nordic skiing.

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At Calgary, the Soviets and East Germans finished first and second in the medals table with 20 of the 46 golds between them. Now, the prediction must be that the re-formed United Team and the combined Germany — in which the western partner provides two-thirds of the team and the eastern contingent has been to a degree willingly corrupted by candy instead of testosterone — will fight out first place ahead of the United States.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are back after 56 years and Croatia and Slovenia here for the first time. These are innovative Games in many ways.

So who are the stars who can rise above the anguished screams of those immovably stuck in traffic jams? The surest hero, I would say, must be Alberto Tomba, surprising victor in Calgary, whose only failure then was to ask for a date with Katarina Witt. The German lady turned him down but no one seems likely to resist him on the slope this time.

His victory in the Lauberhorn slalom at Wengen was his fifth in

eight World Cup races this season, and the teeming horde of Italian supporters will be pouring over the passes these next few days to augment the chaos.

Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, is favourite for the men's downhill, but he reports yesterday, after the first practice session, suggests that the French, such as Picard and Alphand, may have something to say on the new Belleville course.

Then there is the local heroine, the adopted child from Reunion Island, Surya Bonaly. Her jumps are phenomenal, her style less impressive, but she is going to pack the figure skating stadium in Albertville.

There is also Dan Jansen, the youngster whose sister died the morning of the 500 metres speed skating in Calgary. Jansen fell twice before and after returning to Milwaukee for her funeral. He is back now as the favourite.

Toni Nieminen could become the youngest gold medal winner, at 16, in the history of the Winter Games, and is the arch exponent of the new V-style of ski jumping.

I, for one, am quietly celebrating the absence of the grounded eagle from Calgary, so that we can concentrate on achievement instead of farce.

Petra Kronberger, the exceptional Austrian skier who last year won gold medals in all five World Cup events, should give her country some much-needed joy at Meribel — the village that is the site of the ice hockey and where, today, half of the 15,000 spectators grinding their way up the hill in compulsory bus transport for the opening match between France and Canada may well arrive too late for half of it.

Britain, for once in a while, can legitimately look forward to one or two medals. The exciting Wil O'Reilly is favourite in the short-track speed skating one of the Games' most dramatic events. Mark Tew and his men might take two medals on the bobsleigh run, while Jilly Carty is optimistic about her chances in the new freestyle skiing event. The veteran, Davina Galica, is making a comeback at 47 in the unofficial speed skiing.

## Tout sees glint of gold at the end of the ice tunnel

By CHRIS MOORE

IT IS little wonder that bob-sledding has been described as the ultimate sporting madness — a helter-skelter chase for the gold medal down a mile-long tunnel of ice with out brakes.

Wilson Smith, the eccentric Englishman accredited with inventing the sport in St Moritz in 1889, soon found the need to attach a rake to the back of his prototype sled.

Bob-sledding has been an Olympic event since the inaugural Winter Games at Chamonix in 1924, where the British quartet, driven by Ralph Broome, won the silver medal.

Twelve years later, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Frederic McEvoy won the four-man bronze. But it was not until 1964 that Britain struck gold for the only time in Olympic competition as Tony Nash and his brakeman, Robin Dixon, took the two-man title in Innsbruck.

A year later the same pair won the world championship in St Moritz but that was the extent of British success. For the last 27 years, no British crew has finished in the top three in Olympic, world or European competition.

It is against that background that Mark Tout, Nick Phipps and Sean Olsson, the three driven in the British team sponsored by Stella Artois, mount their challenge at La Plagne next week.

Tout's impressive showing in the World Cup this season — he is third in the two-man and second in the four-man — earned him pre-selection to drive the Great Britain 1 bob in both Olympic events. Phipps, at 39 the veteran of

the 12-man team, and the fast-emerging Olsson, aged 24 and twice a winner on the European junior circuit this season, will race off for the other spot.

Given his form and achievements this season, which includes sixth place in last week's two-man race at the European championships in Königssee, Tout and his crew of Paul Field, George Farrell and Lenny Paul represent one of Britain's best hopes for a medal at the Olympics.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if we get our act together, particularly in the four-man event, we will be there or thereabouts," Tout, aged 31 and an army corporal in the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, said.

Scar tissue from his temple to above the right ear remains a visible legacy of an horrific 85mph crash at Lake Placid five years ago, which almost cost him his life. "The fear factor is always there, but it's not something you think about," he said. "You only

have to look in a guy's eyes at the top of the track after you've crashed, and you know whether he wants to go down again."

As always, the Swiss and Germans, primarily in the shape of Gustav Weder and Wolfgang Hoppe, are favourites for the gold medals.

Hoppe, aged 34, is the most successful bobber still competing, with 24 medals in Olympic, world and European competition, including 11 golds, nine silver and four bronze. Only Wolfgang Zimmerer and Erich Scharner, with a total of 27 each, have won more than the world four-man champion from Oberhof, who was the double Olympic champion at Sarajevo in 1984.

His incentive on the new 1,500-metre track at La Plagne will be to equal Meinhard Nehmer as the only driver to win three Olympic golds.

Weder, aged 30, began bobbing as a brakeman in 1984, four years after Tout. But he won the world two-man title at Cortina in 1989, and the following year became the first Swiss driver since Fritz Feierabend in 1947 to pull off the world double at the centenary championships in St Moritz.

"They must still be the two the rest have to beat," Horst Hoernlein, the British coach who, before unification, was East Germany's head coach for 17 years, said.

The two-man event will be run next weekend, February 15 and 16, with the four-man competition on February 21 and 22. There are two runs on each day on the track, which has 19 curves, 11 of which are right-handers.

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Botham makes cameo appearance with bat

## Second-day points go to N Zealand as they strive for lead

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN WELLINGTON

JUST IN case the heady experience of two consecutive victories had dulled the memory, England were sternly reminded at the Basin Reserve yesterday of the long traditions of Test cricket in New Zealand.

The second day of this final Test match brought 170 runs from 94 overs. The cricket was attritional, much of it unambitious. At different stages, it was possible to believe both sides had nothing beyond a draw in mind. It was redolent of England's last tour here, in 1987-8.

It cannot be denied, however, that this was New Zealand's most satisfying day of the series. For them, every morsel stolen from England's laden table is to be savoured.

What must also be considered is that this pitch, although deathly slow, is dry and crusty. It is turning already and could present more problems on the last two days. A first-innings lead may be decisive.

It was a considerable achievement for a raw New Zealand attack to take the last five England wickets yester-

day for 66. It was equally admirable that John Wright and Andrew Jones, under pressure after the customary loss of an early wicket, should bat through to the close and complete their second century stand of the series.

Defretas is not, as yet, in any doubt for the World Cup, where he has an important part to play, but the perceived role of Reeve is no longer plain. While his bowling has been shrewd, his batting has developed a form of strokless desperation, so that he is barely recognisable as the man capable of playing so innovatively in county cricket.

Yesterday's innings of 18 was his lowest in four Test starts but, at 167 minutes, his longest. His 124 runs for England have occupied more than nine hours and he has apparently encountered a mental barrier, far from exclusive to him, which prevents him, risking his wicket by playing naturally.

Although the team target was upwards of 350, purely negative batting was not what was required here and, on a still and somnolent morning, with Mount Victoria looming imposingly over this attractive ground, the crowd might easily have settled for a pre-lunch nap but for the arrival of the old legend himself.

Wellington's morning newspaper carried an advertisement for the cricket yesterday. It simply read: "Botham at the Basin Starts 10.30." Within 20 minutes of that time, Test cricket's latest man to reach 100 Tests caps was marching in, applauded every step of his way. The expectation was out of all proportion, of course, and after clubbing two rapid fours, Botham played quietly for 50 minutes before initiating a characteristic off-drive.

His day was not over. He took a sharp, instinctive catch, head-high at third slip, to dismiss Hartland in Lawrence's third over, and when he came on to bowl in the last hour he got a few long-hops out of his system before locating his length and his flowing to trouble both batsmen.

Tufnell tried everything, 17 overs of experimentation but the turn was too slow to be penetrative and Wright was at his most immovable. In what is likely to be his final Test (though we have heard that before), one of the sport's most personable characters has already defied England for three-and-a-half hours.

Just as they did when they arrived in Calcutta to play

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings						
10 A Gooch b Patel	30	42	82	Min	Runs	103
Turned through gate - well forward						
A J Stewart b Morrison	107	12	0	220	243	
10 A Hutton b Patel						
10 A Hartland b Lawrence	43	5	2	55	40	
10 A Hutton b Patel	6	1	0	31	31	
10 A J Jones b Patel	50	5	0	41	43	
10 A Reeve b Patel	16	0	0	167	123	
10 D V Lawrence c Ruthven b Calma	6	1	0	27	18	
10 T Botham c Calma b Sut	15	2	0	51	48	
10 A Hartland b Calma	16	0	0	46	48	
10 A Hutton b Calma	3	0	0	3	3	
10 A Hutton b Calma	2	0	0	11	6	
Extras (b 4, lb 12, nb 11)	27					
Total (49.1, 116.1 overs)	325					
FALL OF WICKET: 1-10 (Botham, 3-180 (Smith), 4-211 (Lamb), 5-202 (Hartland), 6-182 (Lawrence), 7-177 (Botham), 8-200 (Reeve), 9-226 (Botham), 10-226 (Hartland), 11-226 (Hutton), 12-226 (Jones), 13-226 (Botham), 14-226 (Hutton), 15-226 (Reeve), 16-226 (Lawrence), 17-226 (Botham), 18-226 (Hartland), 19-226 (Hutton), 20-226 (Jones), 21-226 (Botham), 22-226 (Lawrence), 23-226 (Botham), 24-226 (Hartland), 25-226 (Hutton), 26-226 (Jones), 27-226 (Botham), 28-226 (Lawrence), 29-226 (Botham), 30-226 (Hartland), 31-226 (Hutton), 32-226 (Jones), 33-226 (Botham), 34-226 (Lawrence), 35-226 (Botham), 36-226 (Hartland), 37-226 (Hutton), 38-226 (Jones), 39-226 (Botham), 40-226 (Lawrence), 41-226 (Botham), 42-226 (Hartland), 43-226 (Hutton), 44-226 (Jones), 45-226 (Botham), 46-226 (Lawrence), 47-226 (Botham), 48-226 (Hartland), 49-226 (Hutton), 50-226 (Jones), 51-226 (Botham), 52-226 (Lawrence), 53-226 (Botham), 54-226 (Hartland), 55-226 (Hutton), 56-226 (Jones), 57-226 (Botham), 58-226 (Lawrence), 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## Leeds's Gallic new boy waits for League action

# Cantona called on to lead attack against England

By CLIVE WHITE

ERIC Cantona was yesterday called on by Michel Platini, the French national team manager, for his squad for the international match against England at Wembley on February 19, but he is likely to be no more than a substitute for Leeds United in today's first division match against Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park.

Cantona, who is on loan to the Football League leaders from Nîmes until the end of the season, is considered insufficiently match fit by Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, to take his place in their line-up yet. There is a good chance, though, that he will make an appearance at some stage of today's game while a starting appearance cannot be too far away with Lee Chapman, the main goalscorer, still recovering from an arm fracture.

Cantona, aged 25, walked out on Sheffield Wednesday eight days ago when the club attempted to extend his trial

period. Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, may have needed a longer look at the controversial Cantona, but Platini seems to be in little doubt that his fellow countryman's assets — 18 goals in 20 internationals — outweigh his liabilities.

He was suspended from the national squad for ten months last year after insulting Henri Michel, the former trainer, and threatened to quit the game after being suspended by the French league in December, an action which precipitated his move across the Channel.

Like Cantona, Mark Hughes, the Manchester United forward, may feel he has nothing to prove. To the surprise of many, Hughes was dropped by United for the FA Cup tie against Southampton, was again on the lips of Old Trafford's demanding supporters as the south coast club removed United from the FA Cup.

Transfer speculation surrounded Gordon Durie and Gary Mabbutt, was strenuously denied by Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, on the eve of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final, first leg against Nottingham Forest tomorrow.

Indeed the story, he said, was not the fictional one of who might be leaving the club but the factual one of who had decided not to. Steve Sedgley has come off the transfer list at his own request.

### Paisley stands down

BOB Paisley ended an association with Liverpool spanning more than 50 years when he resigned as a club director yesterday (Ian Ross writes). Paisley, who stepped down because of health problems, was awarded a life vice-presidency of the club.

"He has no equal in terms of management and prize-

winning," David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, said. "His firm but gentle approach earned him the respect of everyone within football."

Paisley, aged 73, led Liverpool to six League championships, three League Cups, three European Cups and one UEFA Cup.

### Chelsea v Crystal Palace

Chelsea's unexpectedly early return from the winter break, following Cascarino's arrival, The problem would be eased by the withdrawal of Alien, who is doubtful with it. With Elliott returning at centre back, Monkou is able to fill the void created by the injury of Peacock. Peacock will be unchallenged, which means still no place for Gray.

**Coventry v Liverpool**  
Liverpool have been unable to gain clearance in time for Kozma, their newly signed Hungarian, to make his debut but he will still start his first game in place of Molby, who has a leg injury. Nicol and Thomas are again unavailable. Drinnik is set to play his first match for Coventry since the defeat of Arsenal in September. Happy days.

**Everton v QPR**  
Johnston is set to play for Everton wearing a protective covering on his injured wrist. Beardson has recovered from a hip injury which led to his substitution last Sunday. McDonald and Berndtsson return for Reilly, who is unbeaten in ten League games.

**Luton v Norwich**  
Luton's misfortune with injuries to their forwards continued when Gray suffered a relapse in a comeback game. Norwich, who had applied to the FA for the cancellation after two consecutive victories, include Cuverhouse in their squad for the first time.

since September after recovering from injuries. Daryl Sutcliffe is also included after his four goals for the reserves.

**Manchester U v Sheff Wed**  
Both sides will be looking to bounce back after midweek disappointments. West Brom, on the other hand, United's need could be greater than Wednesday's. Wilson, Bart-Williams and Johnson are added to their squad.

Hughes is expected to start the line-up for United as right-

Wimbledon v Aston Villa

After their FA Cup defeat at Derby, Villa could have problems at centre back where there is precious little cover for McGrath who is doubtful, as is York, their leading scorer. At least, though, the other Villa and Villa are doubtful for Wimbledon because of S. Gibson and Fitzgerald are held in reserve.

**NOTTS CO v Arsenal**

County, who recently held

Manchester United to a draw, can be relied upon to exact

themselves again if the FA Cup win over Blackburn has not taken

too much out of them. Williams, on the other hand, are in contention but there is a doubt over Lund. Arsenal without a win in eight games, could be without Rocastle, who has an ankle injury. Parker stands by, though, and is recalled to the squad but not Limpar.

**Oldham v Leeds**

Doing Manchester United a

favour will be the last thing on the minds of Oldham, their nearest neighbours, whose main concern is the own points position. M. Williams, Hesling and Agans are all in contention but there is a doubt over Lund. Arsenal without a win in eight games, could be without Rocastle, who has an ankle injury. Parker stands by, though, and is recalled to the squad but not Limpar.

**Sheffield Utd v Man City**

City must have to make some improvements if they are to keep up the semi-final output of a single goal in each of the last six games if they are to beat a United side who have scored 17 from the same number. Not bad for a side who many have made the mistake again of relegation. The return of Culthorpe to City after suspension ought to improve City's strike rate.

**TOMORROW**

**Rumbelows Cup**

Mark Forstev of Nottingham

Forest may be unchanged for this semi-final first leg but no one

can be too sure which team

takes the field, the Sheffield United or the one

who is the best. The tie is

with a 4-2 defeat of Crystal

Palace, Tottenham's character,

meanwhile, has been all Hyde

as five games without a win would suggest. Mabbott is struggling

with a knee injury but van den

Hauwe remains and possibly

Troutwood.

**Colin Brookes**

joined Manchester United on

the same day as Nobby Stiles, but

"foolishly" got homesick and

ran home to Barnsley." After

playing on the left wing for

Barnsley, West Bromwich Albion, Peterborough, Southport and Yeovil, Brookes left professional football at 25 and became a policeman.

Twenty-five years later, a constable at Wolverhampton Station, football remained as important to Brookes as his work. Immediately in demand as a player with the West Midlands' police side, he went from assistant manager in 1976 to manager in 1984.

When he sends the side out at Hungerford, of the Diodora League, for a place in the quarter-finals of the FA Vase, Brookes's message will be ringing in his players' ears. "I scored a goal at Wembley for England schoolboys in

1957," he said. "It's every footballer's dream to play at Wembley. I will remind my players that this year will be their chance."

As champions of the Influential Midland Combination, the West Midlands' police team was denied promotion to the Beazer Homes League because its ground, near Edgbaston cricket ground, had no floodlights.

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# WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

LAST TOKEN,  
BOOKING  
FORM AND  
FULL DETAILS  
Page 8

SPORTING PICTURES



Floating in the air: Kirstie Marsh goes into spectacular action in the aerial element of the freestyle skiing contest, a single spectacular somersault from a specially prepared jump. Britain's Jilly Curry is tipped for a freestyle gold

## Head over heels in love with danger

They leap 15 metres into the air, turn a triple somersault with two twists before landing — and the whole balletic performance is over in less than ten seconds. "It is", says Jilly Curry, whose spectacular performance on skis could bring a gold medal back to Britain, "hard to find anything that gives you such a buzz."

It is equally difficult to imagine anything that looks so gravity-defying and graceful being achieved by someone with two long planks attached to her feet.

But such is the result of a combination of sporting enthusiasm, gymnastic precision and hours of practice on the lawn in the back garden. This is where 30-year-old Curry, the daughter of an Olympic steeplechaser from Dunsfold, Surrey, now one of the world's top women freestyle skiers, once suffered a rare injury: she broke an ankle when she fell over her ski poles.

Today the sixteenth Winter Olympics begin in Albertville, in the Savoie region of France and Curry will be up there somewhere, sailing through the air with the greatest of ease. The image of freestyle skiing as a serious sport has not been enhanced by having a two-minute balletic routine set to music, like the risible synchronised swimming, included in its triple discipline. But the other two elements — aerials, a single spectacular somersault from a specially prepared jump, and moguls, a 250m descent over a bumpy course including two upright jumps — are dangerous and breathtaking enough to attract even the most serious sportsman and dedicated spectator.

There was a time, not so many Olympics ago, when winter athletes events that looked remotely artistic were derided as sissy sports. It was John Curry who transformed the way ice skating was perceived with his revolutionary routine during the 1976 Innsbruck Olympics. Poetry in motion combined with stupendous courage: the image problem was melted.

By the time Torvill and Dean were acclaimed for their skill as

**Tomba la Bomba, Jilly Curry, the Duchesnays... who will be the heroes of the sixteenth Winter Olympics, opening today in Albertville? David Powell goes cold-weather star-gazing**

well as their entertainment value, ice skating had become an OK sport. The music they made together created a sensation around the world, not just because of the sexual chemistry there seemed to be between them — a product of their audiences' collective romantic imagination, as it turned out — but also because they were so demonstrably masters of their art.

Their split-second timing, their superb body control and their fearless triple toe loops across yards of ice were as carefully planned and professionally executed as any motor racer's turn into a hairpin bend or footballer's precisely placed penalty.

This year Christopher Dean will be behind the ice scenes, choreographing for his wife, Isabelle Duchesnay and her brother, Paul. Although they were brought up in Canada, train in Germany and are coached by an exiled Czech, the French hosts are praying they will win an Olympic crown to add to the world title they brought home for France last year.

As crowd-pullers the Duchesnays have already proved their potential: they once danced a tribute to the Brazilian jungle clad in skimpy suede outfit. Never mind the figure skating, watch the frocks. Dean has created a new dance based on the overture to *West Side Story* for his real-life love, but critics who saw it at a New Year gala say it did not move them as Ravel's *Bolero* once did.

Most Winter Olympics produce a star act. Torvill and Dean set the ice alight in 1984. Earlier, in the 1960s, the hero was Jean-Claude Killy, skiing's first millionaire after he won three golds in Grenoble. When will such a feat be repeated? Probably never, they say.

The former leading man is now in the director's chair, as joint president of the organising committee. Killy's games will be the biggest show on snow, 1,500 competitors, half a million spectators

heaving a winter holiday brochure heaving to life.

So who will be this year's star? One of the daring downhill demons? These are the young men who do not flinch at trying to tame the mountain with speeds up to 80 miles an hour. From a standing start they catapult down a white wall of snow that falls away at a 63-degree angle, and within 20 seconds are hitting the G-force. In the Olympics, speed is literally a life or death affair.

Switzerland's Paul Accola could be the man who, in a fury of snow flakes, skids into our consciousness. Competing against the laws of nature is the name of the game, and Accola has won the most accolades so far.

One or two other Brits might come good. Wilf O'Reilly is hot on ice too, but his skill is not so much grace as agility and incredible speed. He is competing for the short-track speed gold, an event granted full Olympic medal status only this year. He is expected to win the 500 and 1,000 metres, circling the ice rink at 30mph, balancing on two 16in cutting edges. He can pass an opponent on a bend in a tenth of a second. Blink and you miss it.

One name already on everyone's lips in Albertville, a new Alpine village built over a period of ten years at a cost of £1.7 billion, is Alberto Tomba. Tomba la Bomba. A 6ft, 15-stone Italian is the reigning world slalom champion, invariably accompanied by a woman or two, and not often the same one or two, he is the playboy and pin-up of the travelling white circus, which is what World Cup skiing, as it moves from one resort to the next, is called.

Despite his macho image, the reigning world slalom champion has been called a "mummy's boy", because he is sticking to the safer world of slalom rather than tackling the so-called "real men's

winning the women's slalom and giant slalom, is the daughter of a Swiss shoemaker. Petra Kronberger's father is a cement truck driver, and Kronberger is the world downhill champion.

While Tomba has acquired

from skiing a wealth probably more fabulous than his millionaire father's, and the World Cup overall champion, Marc Girardelli, flies his own helicopter from race to race, the riches from winter

sport are reserved for the few.

What has Ronald Duncan, Britain's best downhill racer, got to show for a 5in scar on his buttock after an accident in which he nearly lost a leg? "Home is a room in Clapham, not big enough for my bed and my skiing equipment," he says. So he sleeps on a foldaway mattress on the floor.

A small sacrifice, presumably, for the chance to après-ski nightly?

"Despite the illusion of glamour, drinking, girls and partying around the circuit, it is not like that. If you do that you will lose and I do not feel like risking my life for a party."

This season, just when he thought he had cracked the sponsorship barrier, luck deserted Duncan. Last winter he skied on a budget of £10,000 but was looking to double it. He was awarded £10,000 but, at the last count, he was still waiting: the money had been promised from a company with Maxwell connections.

Martin Bell, Britain's best-ever Olympic downhill after his eighth place in Calgary four years ago, has grown accustomed to the unglamorous routine. He says: "In a typical week, we are competing on Saturday and Sunday, travelling and settling in at the next venue on Monday and Tuesday, training and doing practice runs from Wednesday to Friday, competing on Saturday and Sunday and so on. Some of the Swiss or Austrian guys can manage the odd day at home but it is impossible for us."

The best skiers live a life of five-star hotels and sponsored everything. The clothes they wear are spectacular, far more fun than the comparatively dull outfits of the summer Olympics. And here

Heinzer, favourite for this year's Olympic downhill gold, goes through the process 20 times before each run. Kronberger four or five.

Winter Olympic athletes are the least superstitious of all sportsmen and women. As one of them pointed out, after a practice race which would make a black run seem like a slide down a snowdrift, luck has nothing to do with it.

## Countryweek

### DEFENCE OF HUNTING



Enoch Powell, Nicholas Ridley, Baroness Malouf QC, Lord McAlpine, Francis Palford

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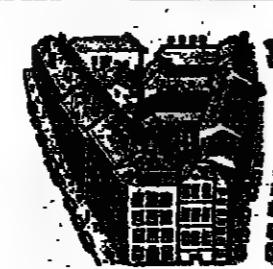
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#### SAY IT WITH...

Food and pink fizz for a St Valentine's day love-in from The Times cook, Frances Bissell, and Jane MacQuitty



#### HIGH SOCIETY

In summer Snowdonia is crawling with tourists. But in winter, Robin Young discovers, it is desolate, raw and thrilling



#### GLOBE-TROTTER

Kay Marles meets artist Richard Walker, whose travels inspired a mural on four-year-old Seth Royston's bedroom wall

Page 15

Television: Lynne Truss turns on to a good read Page 3

Out of Town: a water vole's eye view of a disappearing world Page 9

My Perfect Weekend by A.L. Rowse Page 13

## FILM

**BLACK ROBE** (15): Seventeenth century Jesuit (Lorraine Blauau) tries to convert Indians in northern Quebec. Intelligent epic from Brian Moore's novel. Director, Bruce Beresford. MGM/Tristar (071-434 0031) Plaza (071-497 9999).

**BLAME IT ON THE BELLBOY** (12): Mistaken identities in Venice. Impersonal, machine-tooled, old-fashioned farce. Dudley Moore, Richard Griffiths, Patsy Kensit. Writer-director, Mark Herman.

**CANNON: CHESSIES** (071-352 5056) Oxford Street (071-436 0310) Osborne: Kensington (0426 914685) West End (0426 915574) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**BOUDOU SAVED FROM DROWNING** (PG): Welcome revival of Jean Renoir's anarchic pastoral (1932), with Michel Simon as the unregenerate tramp clasped to the bourgeois bosom. Plus Jean Vigo's surreal view of school days, *Zéro de conduite* (U). Renoir (071-837 8402).

**COUPE DE VILLE** (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male-bonding comedy, and 1960s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern; director, Jon Roth.

**CANNON: FULHAM ROAD** (071-370 2366) Paxton Street (071-930 0631).

**DEATH IN BRUNSWICK** (15): Sam Neil as an ageing mother's boy sucked into love, violence and accidental murder. Tasty black comedy from new Australian director John Ruaan. Cannon: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Metro (071-437 0757).

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**DELICATISSISSIMI** (15): French film which has won Carlo's a very unlikely bizarre family.

above: a household of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. With Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Douce.

**CANNON: CHESSIES** (071-352 5056) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 6148) Gate (071-727 4045) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Hill (071-455 3366).

**DOUBLE IMPACT** (18): Jean-Claude Van Damme, the "muscles

from Brussels", as two twin brothers fighting wrongs in Hong Kong. Lame action movie. Director, Sheldon Lettich. *Odeon* Marble Arch (0426 914501) Plaza (071-497 9999).

**FOR THE BOYS** (15): Song-and-dance team entertain troops in three wars, only to be ruined by a synthetic script. With Bette Midler, James Caan; director, Mark Rydell.

*Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914685) West End (0426 915574) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

**FRANKIE AND JOHNNY** (15): Short-order cook (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Stylish adaptation of Terence McNally's play. Director, Gary Marshall. *Barbican* (071-638 8891).

**CANNON: BAKER ROAD** (071-935 9772) *Fulham Road* (071-370 2366) *Empire* (071-497 9999) MGM/Tristar (071-434 0031) Plaza (071-497 9999) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

**HORS LA VIE** (15): Mystery account of a French hostage's life in the turmoil of Beirut. Starring Hippolyte Girardot; director, Maroun Bagdadi.

*Cannon: Tottenham Court Road* (071-638 6148) *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772).

**JFK** (15): Oliver Stone's contentious, electrifying, three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination. Kevin Costner as crusading D.A. Jim Garrison; a bustling supporting cast. *Barbican* (071-638 8891) *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034) *Cannon: Fulham Road* (071-370 2366) *Empire* (071-497 9999) *Notting Hill Coronet* (071-727 6705) MGM/Tristar (071-434 0031) *Screen on the Green* (071-225 3520) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

**LITTLE MAN TATE** (PG): How and not how to rear a child prodigy. An engaging young player (Adam Hann-Bryd) and sensible direction (Jodie Foster) easily offset the facile moments.

*Cannon: Chelsea* (071-352 5056) *Odeon*: *Haymarket* (0426 914685) *Kensington* (0426 914685) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

**MY GIRL** (PG): Teeth-grating blend of pre-teen angst and middle-aged romance.

Macaulay Culkin gets his first kiss. With Anna Chumsky, Dan Aykroyd, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Howard Deutch. *Baker Street* (071-935 2772) *Chelsea* (071-932 5056) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914685) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

**THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE** (15): Tangled affairs of a pinching journalist (Peter Finch). Flawed comedy that seems miles from the Springtime of Sixties writer-director David Cohen.

*Cannon: Fulham Road* (071-370 2366) *Oxford Street* (071-936 0310) *Piccadilly* (071-437 3561).

**URGIA** (PG): Nikita Mikhalkov's gripping film about civilisation encroaching on the Mongolian steppes. The top prize-winner at last year's Venice Film Festival. *Curzon Mayfair* (071-495 8895).

**AMAZON ADVENTURE**

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By day, the massive waterway - at times so wide that the opposite shore is not visible - bustles with the traffic of vessels of all types, from freighters and container ships to the rafts and fishing boats of the Indians. They may be carrying fruit, nuts and fish to market, or the water taxi, taking city workers back to their village homes. Thanks to the *Zodiacs*, we can take in amazing sights: countless birds, giant trees, and exciting reptiles.

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## THEATRE

## LONDON

**ANGELS IN AMERICA**: Strong performances in Tony Kushner's longish but vigorous drama. AIDS, religion, politics, South African (Costumes), South Africa. Director, Howard Da Silva. *Baker Street* (071-935 2772) *Chelsea* (071-932 5056) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914685) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

**PAINTING CHURCHES**: *Saint Philips* (excellent) and *Leslie Phillips* (charmingly boorish) as George and Jessie Lawrence, their artistic daughter in a quietly touching family play. *Playhouse*, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, 3pm.

**SOPHISTICATED LADIES**: Twelve singer-dancers through the music of Duke Ellington. *Obvious* routines cannot disguise the true nutty Duke. *Globe*, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC1 (071-834 5056), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat. Wed, 3pm.

**BBG SYMPHONY**: *ORCHESTRA*: *Sinfonia* (Sinfonietta), through the music of Duke Ellington. *Obvious* routines cannot disguise the true nutty Duke. *Globe*, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC1 (071-834 5056), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm.

**ROYAL SCOTTISH ORCHESTRA**: The Scottish, conductor James MacMillan, through the *Lighthouses of England and Wales* is available on an enterprising Collins Classics CD single, has composed a Concerto for the whole viola section - usually the most reticent players in the orchestra. We will find that out in the first performance, sandwiched between Stravinsky's Op. 4 and Schumann's First Symphony, and given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel.

**SWAN LAKE**: Following the success of its new *Romeo and Juliet*, Northern Ballet Theatre has come up with a new production of *Swan Lake*. *Choreographed* by Dennis Wayne and designed by Lee Brotherton, the production is directed by Christopher Gable, who has a fine eye for dramatic detail. *Swan Lake* receives its world premiere in Leeds, before moving to Blackpool on February 16.

**ROYAL SCOTTISH ORCHESTRA**: *The Scottish*, conductor James MacMillan, through the *Lighthouses of England and Wales* is available on an enterprising Collins Classics CD single, has composed a Concerto for the whole viola section - usually the most reticent players in the orchestra. We will find that out in the first performance, sandwiched between Stravinsky's Op. 4 and Schumann's First Symphony, and given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel.

**ADZIZO**: The Pan African drama ensemble presents the London premiere of its latest work, *Sye Goli*, which means "we go to Johannesburg - the City of Gold". The work re-enacts the ancestral "Feast of Return", a time when the dead and banished come back to recount their past. The show features a cast of over 30 dancers and drummers.

**PAULA REGO**: In 1990 *Rego* became the first National Gallery Associate Artist; her brief to produce work directly inspired by the National Gallery Collection. This touring exhibition reveals the growing confidence with which she poached images from the European masters using them to create her own powerful, sometimes catastrophic, works.

**THE LEGEND OF THE HOLY DRINKER** (Artificial Eye, PG): Joseph Roth's novel about a down-and-out's bemused journey towards redemption, filmed with brooding poetic power by Emanuele Crialese. With Rutger Hauer, temporarily freed from mauling action movies, and Anthony Quayle.

**MIRROR** (Artificial Eye, U): Tarkovsky's extraordinary meditation on private and public memory. Resonant images and documentary footage look together in a jigsaw puzzle of one family's emotional experiences down the century. 1974.

**VINCENT AND THEO** (Island World Communications, 15): No huge surprises in Robert Altmann's version of Van Gogh; simply an intelligent, sensitive study of the complex relationship between painter (Tim Roth) and brother (Peter Rhys). Written by Julian Mitchel, 1990.

**ZENOBIA** (Virgin Vision, U): An oddity; Oliver Hardy teamed not with Laurel but with an elephant that dogs his feet in an 1870s Mississippi town. Former silent clown Harry Langdon completes the trio. Expect no steeplechase, just sweet sentiment and gentle jokes, 1939.

## EVENINGS OUT

## BRIAN PATTEN

## POET



"The film I'd like to see again before it finishes on general release is *Edward Scissorhands* [in rep at the Everyman]. It's of the same calibre as Jean Cocteau's *The Beauty and the Beast*. It has the illogical quality of a dream coming to life in the real world. It's funny, sad, poetic, cynical - it's pure film. Twisted reality and logic is something, the painter, Patrick Hughes excels in. I've just got time to catch Beyond the Rainbow, an exhibition of his prints at Flowers East (199-205 Richmond Road, London E8). Also I'm curious to see what the theatre company, Company of Clerks, makes of Bulgakov's novel *The Master and Margarita* at Battersea Arts Centre. The book is one of my favourites, and if the play is anything like their version of Shaw's *The Millionairess* it's going to be worth a visit to Lavender Hill. As usual I'm avoiding the reviews, the only critic I ever paid serious attention to retired last year and is deeply missed - I read him because I disliked his opinion so much that anything he loathed I was bound to enjoy." 9

## EXHIBITIONS

**RAPHAEL REDISCOVERED**: Raphael's *Madonna with the Pinks*, one of his most tender early works, has been known for more than a century only from copies, but recently Nicholas Penny, of the National Gallery, recognised one of the supposed copies, in the Duke of Northumberland's collection, as the long-lost original. Cleaning has revealed the picture to be in perfect condition. It is now on loan to the National Gallery, and on show with other Raphaels of the same period.

## OPERA

## STREET SCENE

## Kurt Wall

*Street Scene*, half musical, half opera, returns to the English National Opera stage with Nicolette Moir reviving David Pountney's original production. Janice Cairns enacts the role of Anna Maurrant; Mark Richardson is her brutal husband Frank and Lesley Garrett sings her daughter Rose. James Holmes conducts this tragedy of ordinary, beaten-down people.

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# Actions speak louder than words

**A** red letter day, last Sunday, if ever there was one. *Songs of Praise* (BBC1) finally capitulated to an overwhelming audience demand, and started to display the words of the hymns on-screen. What a relief. They said that the requests had been flooding in (by way of proof, a shot of a pile of letters on different coloured note-paper), and that it was time to concede to common sense at last. No more must we rifle frantically at home through our old school hymn-books searching for "God is working His purpose out", locating it just when everyone in the congregation stops singing.

Well, I had to laugh, really. How I had laboured week after week over those wretched letters — stopping the writing to right and left, rummaging in desk drawers for old scraps of floral headed notepaper and dog-eared kingfisher notepaper. I had even resorted, in desperation, to composing one letter entirely out of words cut from *The Times*, pasted (all crooked) on a sheet of A4. It was probably this last missive that did the trick, come to think of it. But why didn't they pick up my "bouncing ball" suggestion? What a lost opportunity.

The issue of subtitles came up a few times this week — they seemed to be everywhere. "Just off to read some television," I quipped to the cat one evening (but they just gave me a blank look). For example, attempting to get on with some urgent knitting during Wednesday's *Bookmark* (BBC2) was a huge mistake, because every time I looked away from the telly to count the number of stitches I had dropped, a vital piece of information was silently flashed on screen (by way of commentary), and I missed it. Fortunately I guessed that the subtitles in *Screen Two's The Count of Solar* (BBC2) would be crucial (it concerned a deaf-mute boy, learning sign language), otherwise I might have sacrificed one of the few decent bits of telly to an inadequate impression of *Madame Defarge*.

What tricky blighters these subtitles are. Try watching a few hours of television with someone who needs the teletext captions, and just see how long you can stand it. Personally, I am banging my head on the carpet within half an hour. I was obliged to watch with teletext for a little while this week, and honestly started to wonder whether God had heard about the *Songs of Praise* scam and was subtly working his purpose out — by making me read every line of *Inspector Morse* before it was spoken. A plague of boils would be too lenient, evidently. To imagine the full irritation of the teletext

## REVIEW

**Subtitles popped up all over the place this week, but not always helpfully.**

**Lynne Truss says**

subtitle, you must imagine sitting in a cinema and hearing every scene described in advance by a voice next to your ear. "This is the bit where he fires the gun," says the voice. "Bang!" goes the gun on-screen. "But it's all right; it turns out she's not dead," he says, at which the heroine opens her eyes.

Watching TV with the subtitles is slightly worse than this, actually. Because not only do the captions pre-empt the words coming out of people's mouths, they also represent them inaccurately. "Hello," says the caption as a man walks into a room. "Hi," says the actor. "Is that you, dear?" asks the wife, hurrying from the kitchen. "Hi," says the caption. It is incredibly irritating.

**I**n this week's *Wildlife on One* (BBC1), the heroic lifecycle of a tiny innocuous fish called a leucophion was given a subtle change of nuance by the teletext subtitles, which described it throughout as a boil. I suppose the fish doesn't care either way. But the viewer was left with the confused impression that the poor defenceless leucophion deserved its swinging share of natural predators — whales, seals, eagles — because it had probably mis-spent its youth wrecking foot-ball trains across Europe.

As far as hard-of-hearing viewers are concerned, this all seems a bit of a swindle (though of course it's much better than nothing). As far as anybody else is concerned, the only answer is to obscure the lower part of the screen from view by crouching behind the sofa. This may seem extreme, but it is surprising how dramatic tension simply gives up the ghost once the viewer has prior knowledge of the dialogue.

In the context of all this literal-mindedness, the subtitles of David Nokes's play *The Count of Solar* were much to be welcomed. Based on a true story, it concerned a deaf-mute boy found wandering wild in France in the 1780s, and



Fingers talking: learning sign language raised the Count of Solar from urchin to aristocrat — just in time for the French Revolution

subsequently educated in sign by the saintly Abbé de l'Epée (David Calder in a wig). But no sooner could the boy express simple things such as "bread" and "hat" than he discovered a picture in a book that made him want to say something a great deal more complicated — viz. "This is a picture of my ancestral home. I am actually the Count of Solar, cruelly abandoned by a wicked lawyer for some reason, and I intend to claim my inheritance." Language, we were told, is what separates man from beasts. In this boy's case, the immediate benefits of language were to raise him, potentially, from urchin to aristocrat, just in time for the French Revolution. God was working his purpose out again.

It was an enigmatic story, shot very beautifully in pools of old-master yellow light (the director was Tristram Powell), and very beautifully in pools of old-master yellow light (the director was Tristram Powell), and very

nicely acted. The question of the boy's identity was unsolvable, so was simply left unresolved. Merely to label this boy the Count of Solar might beset wealth and power, but it would make no difference to his essential state: the real enigma was inside him, and was inseparable from his deafness.

**T**he contrast between the world of legal certainties (all spoken) and the more poetic world of the emotions (all signed) was subtle but forceful. The point, surely, is that signing expresses a great deal more than words in the mouth: it appears to come from the soul. The accusation in court — "The boy is lying" — therefore seemed terribly shocking: how could the boy be lying, when he couldn't speak?

Last year, in a *Bookmark* programme about the deaf poet

David Wright, there was a heart-stopping sequence in which a woman sign-teacher recited Wordsworth's "I wandered lonely as a cloud" while simultaneously signing it. "Beside the lake, beneath the trees, flitting and dancing in the breeze" sounds pretty trite on its own — but you should have seen it soar in this woman's hands. It was sublime. Similarly, *The Count of Solar* noticeably took flight in its most quiet, most non-verbal scenes — as when the boys at the Abbé's school said their prayers together, signing in unison. The film ended with a flashback to the Abbé conducting a comprehension test entirely in sign: "What is hope?" "Hope is the trust of the mind." "What is gratitude?" "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." Honesty, it loses a lot in the translation.

Talking of which, it would be negligent not to mention here a

rather startling item on last Sunday's *Did You See?* (BBC2), which revealed that Americans require simultaneous translation while chuckling over old episodes of *Are You Being Served?* They sit scratching their heads, apparently, saying: "Did he say wide-fronts? Or wire-fronts?" — as though the answer (Y-fronts) would fill their lives with light. Why do they watch, then? It proved to be another enigma. Evidently the public service channel WLW scores a huge hit with its Friday night "Brit-Com" evenings, yet nobody in its adoring audience can understand "knickers". Let alone guess at the meaning of "more rabbit than Sainsbury's". Perhaps we should warn them about getting the teletext subtitles, however. If they don't understand "knickers", they might have a problem with "knockers" and "knackers" as well.

**Wildlife on One: The Fox** (Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm) In Los Angeles, so I am told, people come out of their nice homes at sundown and call to their kitties. But instead of calling the usual "here-puss-puss" kind of thing, they yell and bang drums and shout distractedly: "Oh my God, come quick! The coyotes are coming, the coyotes are coming, at which the cats streak back into the houses, wild-eyed and breathless, looking as though they have just been electrified. It's a hell of a way to carry on, but unfortunately it is dog-eat-cat out there. Monday's *Wildlife on One* confirms that the coyote (in common with the North American raccoon, or the British urban fox) is a "successful" animal and that American cities are teeming with coyote families, who stand around nonchalantly splitting out the identity tags and flea collars of much-loved pets. I mentioned all this, by the way, to a cat-loving friend of mine, and though I hate to be alarmist, I got the distinct impression she will introduce the coyote to Crouch End.

**EastEnders** (Tuesday and Thursday, BBC1, 7.30pm)

This week, the characteristically unbearable dramatic tension builds to a "special" on Thursday, where the full half-hour is sustained by Pete, Kathy and Willmott-Brown (in various contrived combinations) thrashing out their feelings about the long-ago rape. It is strong stuff, and not to be missed. The only obvious problem is that, since the dramatic temperature customarily plummets whenever Willmott-Brown or Pete holds the stage, rather a heavy burden falls on Kathy — who is obliged to keep beating it up again. I begin to understand why she sometimes breaks down and sobs "Why me? Why me?". The strain of carrying these big scenes must be getting to her.

**The Late Show** (Wednesday, BBC2, 11.15pm) Arts programme audiences have grown restive in the last few months. People have started to question whether "culture" is quite as legitimate a subject as "art" — especially when it means half-hour celebrations of the Doc Marten boot. David Hare finally got so exasperated that he struck the board and cried "No more", momentously declaring on *The Late Show* that Keats just is greater than Bob Dylan. Is it ever too late to mend? What is to be done? *The Late Show* talks to lots of impassioned pundits (watch out for a fiery A.S. Byatt), and generally gnaws the bones of the old elitism debate.

L.T.

## Too much naked truth?

Homosexual love-making is portrayed in a film on BBC2 tomorrow night



**D**espite the far greater public acceptance of homosexuals today, gays still have to face the agony of whether, and when, to tell their families about their sexuality. The pain and repercussions of "coming out" are explored in a new film, *The Lost Language of Cranes*, directed by Nigel Finch, to be shown on BBC2 tomorrow evening at 10pm.

The film shows full-frontal shots of male nudity, and men kissing and making love. Ironically the version for the United States, birthplace of the gay rights movement, had to be shot again with the men wearing boxer shorts.

Based on the book by David Leavitt, the American novelist, the screenplay has been scripted by Welsh director and writer Sean Mathias. He was commissioned by Ruth Caleb, the executive producer for BBC Wales, whose social dramas have tackled incest, child sexual abuse and AIDS.

*The Lost Language of Cranes* centres on Owen, a married, middle-aged academic (played by Brian Cox) who haunts a gay porno cinema once a week unknown to his wife Rose (Eileen Atkins), a book editor. Owen is forced to confront his own homosexuality when his grown-up son Philip (Angus Macfadyen) tells his parents that he is gay.

Mr Mathias says he was 32 years old before he had the courage to tell his mother that he was gay, even though he had been living with a man for nine years. "The day I divulged the facts to my mother, the atmosphere in the room froze," he says.

In the film, Rose's cold reaction to her son's news is similar. "Keeping certain secrets secret is important to the general balance of life," she says tersely, getting up to make a cup of tea. But the truth, suppressed for so many years, tears the family apart.

"When you are talking about coming out, you are talking about leading your life as honestly as possible. Naturally there are elements you may destroy," Mr

Mathias says. "At what point does lying and deceiving yourself and the people around you start to avert your true nature? That is the crucial issue."

The film raises other important issues, not least whether the BBC should be screening such a literally naked portrayal of gay sexual love. Last November *Saturday Night Out*, which reflected gay life, caused an avalanche of complaints, mainly in advance.

Ian Yentob, the controller of BBC2, says: "In my view this is the kind of piece that has a place on British television and should be judged on artistic merit, not in prurient anticipation of what the viewers suspect they may see."

Mary Whitehouse, the president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, has not seen the film. But she reiterates that the BBC's charter carries an obligation not to transmit material that "offends against good taste and decency".

"I have never taken a position against homosexuals as people,"

## Gambling on Gambon

**B**est remembered for its pipe-lighting title sequence and for ruining Rupert Davies's subsequent career, the BBC *Maigret* of the early 1960s has until now (apart from a grotesque false start featuring Richard Harris) defered further attempts at televising Simenon.

But Granada TV has plucked up courage, drawn by the eldorado of creating a long-running detective series to rival *Poirot* and *Inspector Morse*, and done so. Writers of the calibre of Alan Plater and William Humble have adapted six of the Belgian author's 102 *Maigret* tales. Michael Gambon plays the star sleuth, and Budapest stands in for the rather shabby Paris of the 1950s.

Expensive drama series, particularly those with foreign locations, are usually filmed in the summer. But *Maigret* is not *Summer's Lease*. The typical Simenon novel requires the hero to tramp about in a dingy *arrondissement* where it is always raining.

Granada's solution, in the 90-minute pilot episode (Sunday, ITV, 8.45pm), is to pick an untypical yarn set in a torrid July — so torrid that it turns *Maigret*, normally a wine and brandy man, into a beer-drinker. (The series has duly secured a £500,000 sponsorship deal from Kronenberg.)

*The Patience of Maigret* has the chief inspector investigating the death of a wheelchair-bound Corsican crime boss, which is linked to a wave of raids on jewellers. The suspects live in the same apartment block as the victim.

The story is not only weakly plotted but also ill-suited to the role of prologue, as it fails adequately to establish and individualise *Maigret* and his three regular police colleagues.

*Gambon* has the character's monolithic imperturbability, but Simenon's spare, functional dialogue gives him little scope. The other classical actors in the cast —

Cheryl Campbell, Greg Hicks, Geoffrey Hutchings — similarly struggle.

Plater also has language problems. Do you remain a French feel, risking comparisons with *All or All of All?* Or anglicise Simenon, risking the inference that a team from *The Bill* has been seconded to the *Quai des Orfèvres*?

The script seems to fluctuate between the two approaches, with some exchanges in idiomatic English and others sounding like literal translations from French ("Am I permitted to give some advice?" asks one witness).

On the plus side, the domestic life of *Maigret* — an unusually happily-married fictional detective — is skilfully sketched in a few

scenes, with Ciaran Madden as the hero's wife. The diverse inhabitants of the apartment building are sharply characterised. And Budapest proves to be a very passable Paris, although the use of brief shots of Parisian tourist attractions is bewilderingly crude.

The BBC *Maigret* was made in black-and-white. The Granada series is, of course, in colour, and director James Cullinan Jones brings to the pilot episode the visual flair so evident in his production of *Fortunes of War*. The effect, however, is to impose a nostalgic softness on Simenon's vision, subduing the ambivalence of his feelings about Paris.

He was a realist, not the enchanted chronicler of a vanishing pre-war city, and hence his work is best suited to black and white.

Although it was tacky by present-day standards, the Rupert Davies version was arguably more faithful to the atmosphere of the novels.

JOHN DUGDALE

GUILTY SECRETS: NAIM ATTALLAH

There are two things. I was

addicted to *Bread* when it first came out, but I'm not so

addicted now because they

changed the original cast. It's

not the same. But I am ad-

dicted to *Birds of a Feather*,

which is about two sisters

whose husbands are in prison.

I like the relationship be-

tween them. I find it very amus-

ing and very real. They are dif-

ferent and therefore com-

plement one another. You feel

that there is a bond there.

Lesley Joseph, the neighbour,

is slightly over the top. She

over-acts, whereas the two sis-

ters come across as being very

natural."

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

## ENTERTAINMENT

5

# Seal is set on his success

Nominated for three of next week's Brits awards, rock star Seal has only one album and one tour to his name. David Sinclair investigates his appeal

**T**hirty seconds into our conversation, Seal's mobile phone rings. The call is from Brazil, where Seal has just performed at two stadiums in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The news is that his song, "Killer", has been the most played record on Brazilian radio this week. "When's the carnival?", Seal asks airily as the conversation nears its end. "I'll see you there."

Less than two years ago, Seal was still living in a London squat. For a young man — well, 29, later this month — suddenly to have the world at his feet must be a strange feeling. No less disconcerting must be the experience of receiving the kind of acclaim that has landed him three nominations for next week's Brits awards: Best Album by a British Artist (his self-titled debut), Best British Newcomer and Best British Male Artist. Other nominees in the latter category include Elton John, George Michael, Phil Collins and Van Morrison.

"It's hilarious. I know," he says easily. "I find it flattering to be compared to them, but in reality I know it's not like that. Those guys have a whole back catalogue that indicates their greatness. I've made one album and done one successful tour."

This is true. Yet in that short space of time Seal has demonstrated a rare ability to transcend the factional divisions of modern popular music culture. He made his mark initially on the technology club scene, thanks to his alliance with keyboard boffin Adamski which produced the UK No 1 hit "Killer".

His album, produced by Trevor Horn, married soul and synthesizer in a nouveau-progressive setting, while his live shows revealed the traditional rock 'n' roll sensibility

that was beating at the heart of his work all along. His tastes in other people's music are no less catholic, ranging from the populist crass of Bryan Adams's "Everything I Do I Do It For You" — a classic song, one to rank alongside the Motown greats — to the lunatic avant-garde indulgences of Fishbone.

A great many Britons first became aware of Seal when Samuel as a huge figure, legs astride, glowering down from billboard hoardings all around the country. If anything had gone wrong, this advertising broadside for his first album could quite easily have been branded the most outrageous hype. "I wouldn't have had the gall to suggest such a campaign myself," he says now, "although I sincerely believed that I had what was required to substantiate that amount of promotion."

His real-life presence is not a lot different from that imposing image. Standing six foot four and weighing 14 stone, he is dressed in the inevitable black leather trousers when he arrives at his record company offices in Kensington. He wears a huge pair of sunglasses and carries a guitar.

He conforms to the theory that very tall men are not as pushy as their shorter brethren, and although he is plainly confident of his abilities and aware of his worth, Seal's unusually sensitive personality has given him a dread of succumbing to the ego disorders that one routinely encounters among people who achieve this level of success.

"Fame is a cancer," he says with some passion. "It's a really poisonous thing, believe me. You don't realize it until you get here, but suddenly you see why there is that whole thing of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. It's so easy to fall into it. You're constantly

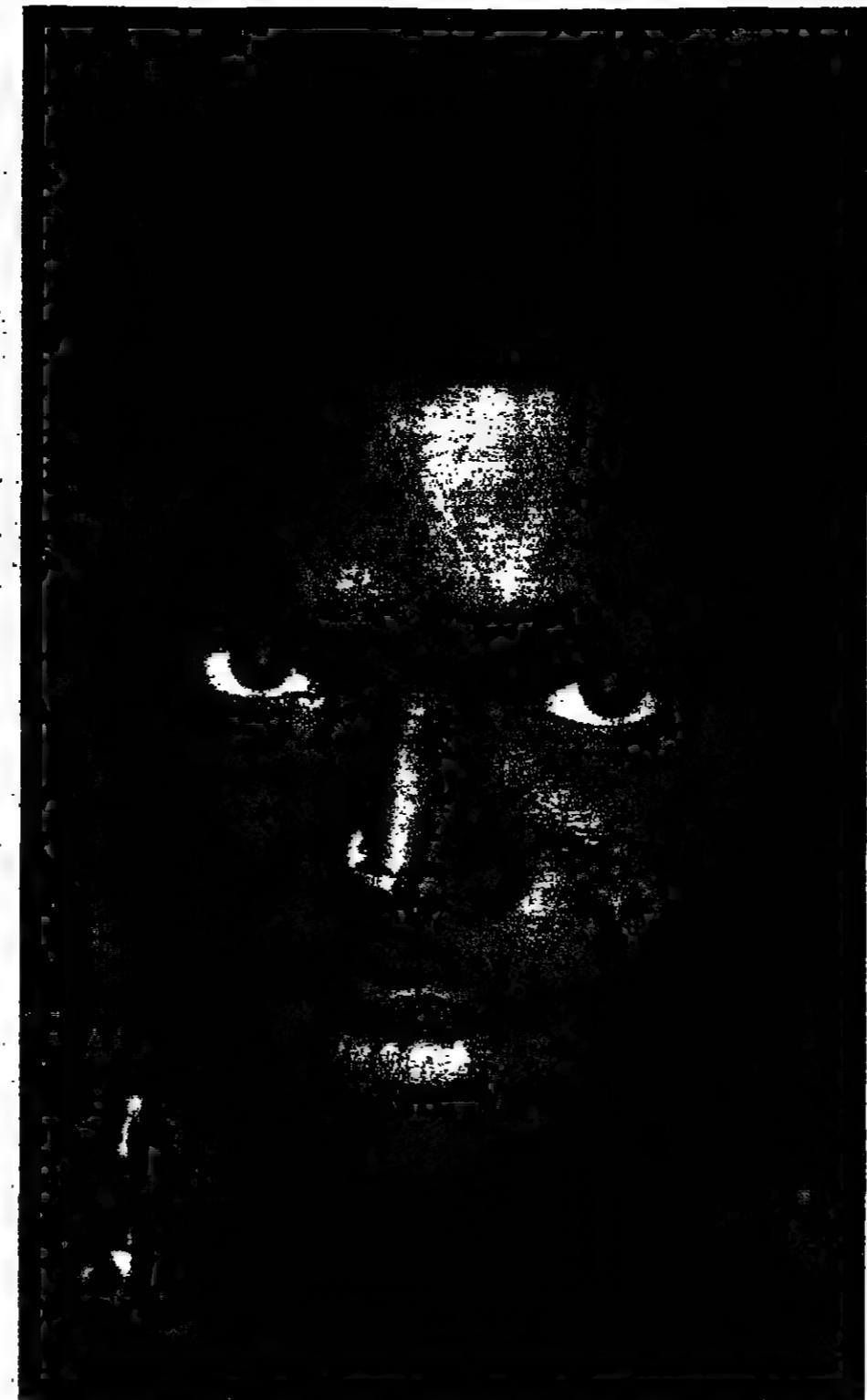
surrounded by people saying 'You're great Seal. You're right, Seal.' No matter how much of a sensible person you are, it becomes very easy to take advantage of situations and lose respect for people."

Seal has evolved various strategies to prevent this happening. One is to maintain an entourage of people who knew him before he was successful. His manager, John Wadlow, and his accountant, Julian Spicer, are people he met five years ago, when he first started writing and recording his demos on a portable studio in a bedroom at his mother's house in Kilburn. His record company advised him to get "proper" management, but Seal has stuck with the people he feels he can trust.

**H**is personal assistant, who sits in for much of the interview, is a chap called Paul Inge whom Seal describes as "my best friend, someone who knew me and believed in me long before I had any money or success".

Seal's other tactic is to keep on the move. Born in Kilburn of Nigerian parents (and one Brazilian grandparent, an angle which the media went to town on during his visit to that country), he enjoyed a settled childhood in north London, but always longed to travel. He spent time in Thailand before he was successful, and returned there over Christmas with his girlfriend Sashé and the ubiquitous Inge.

"We went to the extreme north, well off the tourist routes, and stayed with some hill tribes. Very few of them had ever seen black people before, much less anyone with dreadlocked hair like mine. So they were really apprehensive at first. Fortunately we had lots of sweets and food



Man of the moment: Seal has a rare ability to transcend rock's factional divisions

and things to offer them. My only mistake was that I didn't take my guitar with me."

This recollection triggers a sudden move towards the guitar case, and pulling out a well-worn acoustic he proceeds to play excerpts from six new songs which he has written for his next album. He plays the instrument left-handed and upside down, to a rudimentary standard, yet

using a repertoire of slightly odd chords and voicings. Among the numbers are a song inspired by the visit to Thailand, and a tribute to Joni Mitchell. Both have lots of jangly chords played high up the neck, and the impromptu performance pulls into focus a folksy dimension to his music.

Of the several glittering prizes he has picked up so far,

Seal is most proud to have won the Ivor Novello award for writing "Killer". "I'm not a very good guitarist, and to tell you the truth I hardly ever sing in tune," he insists. "I'm a songwriter really, or at least that's what I aspire towards."

• The Brit Awards will be at Hammersmith Odeon on Wednesday at 1pm. The ceremony will be shown on BBC 1 later the same night, 7.30-9pm.

## Rejoice, but don't force it

### CONCERTS

Philharmonia/  
Barshai  
BBCSO/Lazarev  
Festival Hall

WHETHER or not the coda of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony depicts "forced rejoicing", as claimed by Solomon Volkov in the composer's putative "memoirs", remains a matter of perception, or perhaps of taste. It may well be the case, as some scholars have suggested, that such a reading arises from, or is at least fed by, cold war ideologies. Rudolf Barshai's impressive account with the Philharmonia on Wednesday demonstrated that the symphony's ending can sound insistent without a trace of cynicism: triumph without vacuity.

One was reminded of the subtlety of that wind writing, for the opulent string textures and soaring horn parts are almost taken for granted in Strauss. Not that the virtuosity of a horn player such as Radovan Vlatkovic should be taken for granted. Particularly impressive was his ability to slip gracefully through the registers with a seamless legato, while unsheathing a razor-sharp cutting edge for exuberant flourishes.

Neither in Strauss nor Mahler could the string playing be described as flawless, though the wind and brass solo were generally well taken. Under Lazarev's baton, a personal view of sorts gradually emerged in the Mahler: full-blooded playing at the climaxes, and a strong sense of irony in the funeral march, yet never quite taking the breath away.

At least, that was the case until the coda of the finale, which Lazarev made electrifying. Such an approach proved that the final triumph need sound no more hollow than that of Shostakovich.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Spinster blossoms in world of despair

**B**ELOW Bob Crowley's shack-and-verandah set with its corrugated-iron roof and dried-blood planks, a scrabbling and scratching is sometimes to be heard, perhaps a little more faintly than Tennessee Williams's text suggests he would have wished. An iguana is at the end of its tether and dreaming of escape. So, more figuratively, are several of the people above. So was Williams when he created them. Back in 1961, he was pouring booze and tranquillizers down his throat and rapidly injecting a speed cocktail, prescribed by a quack doctor, into his raddled veins, and, unsurprisingly, the desperation showed in his work.

The time is 1940 and the place a last-chance hotel in the Mexican rain-forest. The only contented visitors are a troupe of holidaying Nazis, in Richard Eyre's production great pink blobs in black swim-suits. Their function is to celebrate the fire-bombing of London and generally to draw attention to the brimminess of the world at large. But most of the other characters belong to what Williams called "my little company of the faded and frightened and difficult and odd and lonely".

Prime among them is Shannon, minister turned tour-guide. He has been disgraced for seducing a parishioner and then denouncing God's cruelties from his Virginia pulpit, and now, after an erotic brush with a 16-year-old, he is regarded as a sex-fiend by the grim ladies he is ineptly bussing through the outback. Like many of Williams's characters, like Williams himself, he is hopelessly split between the inarticulate cravings of the spirit and the pull of his flesh: a civil war in *propria persona*, and,

### THEATRE

#### Night of the Iguana

Lyttelton

as such, quite a challenge for any actor. Richard Burton played the role in the movie, spilling dark sexuality and a sort of sullen danger from the screen. Anthony Hopkins and Brian Cox would be capable of suggesting the character's subterranean agonies today. At the National, Alfred Molina bangs his head against a post anxiously enough, rages forcefully enough, pleads for his disappearing job adjectively enough. But sexual power and charisma are missing. So is the sense that somewhere inside him a last-ditch battle is being waged against what is variously called his "spook" and his "blue devil". He is edgy, at times almost distraught, never in the despair Williams knew.

But his limitations are another's opportunity. In Eyre's revival, the character that quietly moves to the centre of the stage, and effortlessly commands it, is the New England spinster who has spent her life caring for her grandfather, an inestimably aged poet, round the globe. As played by Eileen Atkins, with her long, fractured Modigliani face, she manages to be astringent without becoming austere, rigorous without being cold, grave but not sententious, precise but not severe, unsmiling yet outgoing and emotionally generous. Two of her moonlight confidences to Shannon make the production worth seeing in themselves. One involves a visit to the dying in Shanghai, the other an encounter with a dowdy fetishist in Singapore



Frances Barber: swagging through life with fake-triumphant choruses of "ha!" she insists on seeing as a "love experience". The audience sat rapt through both, entranced by their oddball magic.

Does this unbalance the production? I cannot think so. First of all, there is nothing wrong and much right with the supporting performances. Frances Barber might let up on her fake-triumphant choruses of "ha!", but she still has the casual, slouching sensuality the ho-

tel-owner needs, and we can, if we wish, read a certain insecurity into her over-aggressive swagger. Second and more important, it is Atkins's Hannah who most completely embodies Williams's human, forgiving wisdom.

She herself has plumbed the depths, seen the darkness, been down there with the roared a-ha, and emerged with a hard-won charity, resilience and belief in endur-

## Fresh from Argentina

### NEW MUSIC

#### Lontano/Martinez

St John's

THREE more new pieces from Lontano, and another three to come at its concert here next Tuesday. Odalina de Martinez's energy is matched only by her dedication, and by the equal care and enthusiasm she gets from her players.

This time they began with something curiously between a duet and a trio in Alejandro Vinao's *Tumblers*. On stage were a marimba player and a violinist, but both with headphones, and from somewhere behind them the voice of a computer. Sometimes it was clear that this was a wobbly reflection of one or other of them, bouncing off and around the marimba line like a puppy on a lead, or caused by a decisive down-bow on

the violin to make a wonderfully echoing metallic noise like some great door opening in a bank vault.

But sometimes it seemed to be going off on its own, and similarly there was a nice slipperiness between the instrumental parts, between effects of tumbling together and spins of solo acrobatics. The piece had other features typical of this composer's music: a feeling for sound as a substance, expressed in a gelatinous connection of events, and a rhythmic urgency that seems to come straight out of his South American background.

However, the work of another Argentinian, Michael Rosas Cobian, could hardly have been more different: cobweb music, a line of the most finely drawn ensemble sounds stretched out on near-silence. This was *Threes*. He obviously has a close acquaintance with sound, too — the piece was

exquisitely conceived — but his is a completely other world of brushed pianissimos from piano and percussion, humming clouds and sharply focused but tiny chains from wind instruments. The danger would be that of seeming merely atmospheric: this is music that for all its passivity, requires an acute wariness in the writing, and indeed in the performance. Here we were conducted just about safely, and with beautiful instrumental playing, to the end of the path.

Joe Cutler's *Epitaph for Nebula*, also for mixed ensemble, was not in danger of missing its destination, since its personality was so much more robust, even raw (a certain Varèse-like feeling for instrumental skirmishes and jammed sonorities), and since it was over so soon that its material seemed to be promising.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

MARTIN HOYLE

## Boring roaring

### THEATRE

#### The Roaring Girl's Hamlet

Croydon Warehouse

THE director of The Sphinx (formerly the Women's Theatre Group) asserts that because Shakespeare wrote only for men, incidentally creating characters who combined masculine and feminine elements, women should now have a go at playing all the roles. But having made the imaginative gender switch, Sue Parrish's direction offers no unexpected insight. Three hours of plodding adequacy are three very long hours indeed.

The play is put in context by a prologue written by Claire Luckham, of *Trafford Tanzi* fame, spoken by Moll Cutpurse, Alexandra Matthe, convincing as the sturdy swashbuckler, introduces us to her company of female reprobates and simply down-trodden wives and mothers. She also plays Claudio. Since creating the lead in *Daisy Pulls It Off*, this actress has always had something of the good chap about her, and her usurping tyrant is a genial sort who strides around with his coiffure piled high and his skirt hitched up dashing on one side.

The production disdains to mimic men: some of the male characters wear breeches, some skirts, some androgynous draperies. They all keep their feminine hairstyle.

With a producer whose ideas about the play extended further than making a sexual statement, there might be some good performances. Paradoxically, the female characters are the least convincing: an under-characters if well enunciated Gertrude and a wooden, stilted Ophelia. We lose Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, for which relief much thanks, but have an Osrif who recalls the young Margot Rutherford.

Ruth Mitchell is the only player to summon up a semblance of passion. Her bitter teasing of Ophelia and her mounting excitement during the play scene, strike sparks. Good swordplay (Liz Kettle as Laertes comes remarkably to life).

## TALKING HEADS

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# Over the hill, down the dale

**H**ere's a reasonable third division idea which I offer to any publisher or producer who may be listening: a social, anthropological and literary history of Notting Hill, Notting Dale and their environs from circa 1950 until the present day. That is, from the time of the arrival of the first West Indian immigrants to the point where the area's fashionability has become so institutionalised that the action must be getting ready to move elsewhere (just as it moved from Chelsea in the 1970s).

Parochial? Sure. But what a parish, from the hanging gardens of Lansdowne and Elgin to the toter-squalor of Goldborne; from the Mangrove to 192; from the walk-in, coin-in-the-slot dispenser of warmed-over grisettes to Tom Conran's state of the art grocery. Then there are the race riots of 1958, the Trodick Tower, Performance, the Globe, the Prince of Wales on the far western boundary, the maters, the crims, etc. Anyway, there you are. Yours for free.

The oldest surviving restaurants in this manor belong, predictably enough, to that period when the peeling palazzi started to get restuccoed and alarming pastel washes were applied to workmen's dwellings, and Rachman, alsatians, kippers under the floorboards and nasty surprises through the letterbox became (more or less) extinct; apart, that is, from alsatians — though I'm still hoping.

I'm amazed that these outfits with their "charismatic" interiors of Portobello gewgaws (mandatory rocking horse) and "charming" house pets succeed in hanging on. But of course long-established places which own their freeholds or pay 1970 rents can sit pretty and get on very little business, while newer and vastly better places still struggle, even though they may be permanently packed: witness the coming and going of archly fashion-conscious "café" bars, soi-disant brasseries etc over the past couple of years.

Not that all the newer places have been better than the old-timers, far from it. One that undoubtedly is, however, is L'Accento Italiano over in the far east, on the Baywater border, beyond it maybe so far as the above prospectus is concerned — the site of the old Westbourne Grove Odeon marks where one quarter of London is succeeded by another.

None the less, it feels like Notting Hill. That is where the majority of the punters seem to come from. Enough of them

**The rise of Notting Hill has peaked.**

**Jonathan Meades samples its charms**

appear to know each other to give it the atmosphere of a properly local joint. It's animated, vaguely party-like and there is no house rule about not passing out: indeed one young man had his head on the table before his soup plate had arrived. Still, the clubbiness is not oppressive; it does not trespass into cliqueishness: regulars — and though it is only a few months old there are plenty of them — do not get fawned upon to the detriment of first-timers, casuals and so on.

The service is particularly adept — the staff are not only amiable, they have the advantage of height: the bar and service station are raised to give them a clear view of beckoning diners.

This is a simple feature which might be advantageously taken up elsewhere. The room is pale sage, with a gently concave, suspended ceiling, a rough-cast wall the colour of wet sand, and wooden tables, each of which is equipped with a modish flask of herby olive oil.

**T**his is a fashion which, with luck, will go beyond fashion and become a fixture of many outifts for years to come. It beats butter even if it does spot clothes. The rather cakey bread is superior to what you'd get in many places in Italy. So, in fact, is the cooking.

Like Al San Vincenzo near Marble Arch or Riva in Barnes, this is an establishment that is of much more than purely local interest. But book the bushegraph is efficient, word is out — I can't recall a restaurant in which I've seen so many non-reserved hopefuls being turned away.

The prices are right, but they are in many other nearby places. The food is persistently faultless.

The chef — who has not previously worked in London — is spot-on with everything he touches. And the menu includes such rarely seen items as tripe with *borlotti* beans and *coda alla vaccinara*, the oxtail dish that is pretty much peculiar to Rome — the meat is braised with, unusually, tomato and, always, celery. I didn't try it, but if it's anywhere near as good as the tripe it is worth coming for. This stomach lining was exquisitely



Jonathan Meades

peppercorn, flavoured with a savoury tomato and parmesan sauce and given body by the beans.

Another meat dish was also top-notch: pork fillet with a piquant agrodolce sauce, roast cabbage, fried courgettes, fried potatoes. Before these were an exemplary risotto with squid ink and a strange but wholly successful concoction that comprised a base of fried, garlic-flavoured bread dough with a "topping" of thin, grilled courgettes and soft goat cheese. There are a number of promising sounding sweets. Fritters with raspberry purée were good.

The wine list is short and cheap, nothing over £15: The Grignolino grape which is, perhaps understandably, not much grown outside Piedmont makes for a thin, thin, thin beer.

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(I imagine that everyone who lives in the area knows about it already.) The cooking is wholesome, homely and sustaining. A grain of

peppercorn, *trompette des morts* and cream would have been better had the tubers been peeled, but it was OK. Gnocchi with a cream sauce, flavoured with (probably) sage were a nice heavy. Pork is poached with split peas and bacon lardons. Chicken is sauced with tarragon and cream. Both of these dishes were absolutely sound. The combination of low prices, lack of pretension and open-all-hours policy is a winning one.

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# Eat to your heart's content

**S**t Valentine was the martyred bishop of Terni in Umbria, not far from Norcia, which is famous for its black truffles. Here the truffles are said to be at their best approaching carnival time, just before Lent, which makes them a fitting dish for Valentine's day.

I thought about this as I sat in a very ordinary restaurant recently not too far from Terni, eating a plate of spaghetti alla norcia. Such was the restaurant that I had no great expectations of the dish — it looked like spaghetti with a dark mushroom sauce. But when I ate a mouthful, there among the mushroom was the unmistakable chipiness of finely chopped truffle.

This is the dish to make with that carefully hoarded tin of truffle, or even truffle peelings. Even a small amount of truffle will flavour and perfume a staple such as pasta to make it all taste of truffle. Another method for making a little go a long way is to chop it into a risotto, a lovely dish for two.

Truffles have always been a sought-after delicacy, with reputed aphrodisiac properties. Before the fall of Babylon, the city nobles enjoyed them by the basketload. In classical Rome, Pliny, Marcius and Apicius wrote about them in glowing terms, and many Roman cooks devised many subtle methods of preparing the aristocratic tuber, including one using fresh mint, rosemary, olive oil, wine and a little honey.

The cost of truffles today is such that peelings may well be all we can afford, and those for a very special occasion. Michel Bourdin's new kitchen at the Connaught in London was designed with a special cold room/staging room to store the thousands of pounds worth of truffles he uses in a year.

In the hope that someone might buy you a truffle for Valentine's day, here is what to do with it — plus some more recipes for the occasion.

**Spaghetti alla norcia**  
(serves 2)

2oz/60g button mushrooms, wiped and finely chopped  
1 shallot, peeled and finely chopped  
1pt/70ml extra virgin olive oil  
truffle, chopped  
seasoning



**Frances Bissell,  
The Times  
cook,**  
serves up a  
Valentine's dinner

Fry the mushrooms and shallots in half the olive oil until soft. Stir in the truffles, and cook for eight-ten minutes over a low heat. Meanwhile, cook the spaghetti, drain it, and toss in the remaining olive oil. Stir the sauce and pasta together, season lightly, and serve in heated bowls.

Oysters are invested with similar properties to the truffles, and in *Venus in the Kitchen*, Norman Douglas has half a dozen oyster recipes, which are easily cooked for two. Here is one for which I suggest you use half a dozen or so oysters and serve as an appetiser.

**Oysters in wine**  
(serves 2)

Heat the oysters in their shells. Open them, take them out, and collect their liquid in a pot. Put the oysters in a frying pan with butter, a sprig (sic) of garlic, mint, marjoram, powdered peppercorns and cinnamon. As soon as they are lightly fried, add their liquor and a glass of Malmsey or another generous wine. Serve them on toast.

In the same collection of recipes dating from the mid-1930s and earlier, also entitled *Love's Cookery Book*, Douglas describes how to prepare grilled oysters by removing them from their shells and seasoning with chopped fresh thyme, grated nutmeg and salt. Sprinkle with soft breadcrumbs, and place two or three oysters in a couple of large, cleaned oyster shells. Place a pat of butter on top, and set the shells on a griddle set over high heat. Once the liquid begins to bubble, add a teaspoon of white wine, and when the oysters' frill begins to curl, serve them, sprinkled with a little nutmeg.

I too like cooked as well as raw oysters, and this is yet another version of my favourite oyster pie recipe, this time in miniature.

**Little oyster pie**  
(makes 6)

6 oysters  
freshly ground pepper  
6 blanched lettuce leaves  
4lb/110g flaky pastry  
3oz/85g softened butter  
3 anchovy fillets, chopped  
good pinch of mace  
2tbsp soft white breadcrumbs  
grated zest of 1 lemon

Remove the oysters from their shells, keeping the juice. Season lightly with pepper, and wrap in the lettuce leaves. Roll out the pastry, and line six tart tins. Mix the remaining ingredients, together with a little lemon juice and the strained oyster juice. Place some of the mixture in the lined tart tins, the wrapped oysters on top and the remaining butter mixture. Top the tarts with pastry lids. Brush with

an egg yolk and water glaze if you wish, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 8 for ten minutes. Serve hot or warm.

The next recipe can be made with leftover champagne — if there is such a thing.

**Rose champagne granita**  
(serves 2)

up to 1tbsp sifted icing sugar, to taste  
5fl oz/140ml rose champagne

Stir the sugar into the champagne, and freeze the mixture in a sorbetière or ice-cream maker, or in a freezerproof container in the ice-making compartment of your refrigerator. If, using the latter method, keep stirring the sides of the granita to the middle so that the mixture freezes evenly. A food processor is useful to blend the mixture before the final freezing. Do not let the mixture freeze too hard. A granita is a soft, "grainy" mixture when it is served. Here are some crisp biscuits to go with it.

**Almond biscuits**  
(makes about 18)

1 egg white  
pinch of salt  
2oz/60g caster sugar  
1tsp grated lemon zest  
2oz/60g ground almonds  
1tbsp flour, sifted

Preheat the oven to 140C/275F, gas mark 1-2. Whisk the egg white until foamy. Add the salt, and continue whisking until firm. Gradually add the sugar, and whisk until stiff. Carefully fold in the rest of the ingredients. Line baking trays with greased greaseproof paper, and drop the mixture on to it in teaspoons. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until set and golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

**ROSE hearts**  
(serves 2)

2tsp/70g thick Greek-style plain yoghurt

sauce is delightful. The flavouring of the yoghurt and cheese mixture can also be changed. Substitute orange flower water for the rose water, and serve with sliced oranges, or use freshly chopped mint and honey with blackcurrant or raspberry sauce.

You can buy individual heart-shaped pierced moulds imported from France in good kitchenware shops. Line the moulds with damp muslin or cheesecloth to stop the mixture drying out too much. If you cannot obtain moulds, pierced yoghurt or cottage cheese cartons are a good substitute, but you will, of course, lose the heart shape.

**Rhubarb sauce**  
(serves 2)

6oz/170g forced rhubarb  
caster sugar, to taste  
grated nutmeg

Blend the yoghurt and curd or cottage cheese, mix in the rosewater until smooth, and sweeten to taste. Whisk the egg white to form peaks, and fold into the cheese. Spoon the mixture into lined moulds, place on a plate, and refrigerate for about 12 hours to drain and firm up.

When ready to serve, turn out on to plates, and carefully peel the muslin from the moulded cheese mixture.

**Rhubarb sauce**  
(serves 2)

6oz/170g forced rhubarb  
caster sugar, to taste  
grated nutmeg

Chop the rhubarb into 1in/2.5cm chunks, but do not peel it. Rinse it and place in a saucepan with the sugar. Cook gently, partially covered, until the fruit is tender. Sweeten to taste. Rub through a sieve, sprinkle with nutmeg, and chill until required.

## Darling sips for St Valentine

**Everyone can say it with pink fizz next Friday — even champagne is reduced, reports Jane MacQuitty**

**P**ink fizz is the obvious romantic drink for February 14 and there is plenty of it around — at bargain prices.

I find the ubiquitous Angas Brut Rosé from Australia somewhat dull and lifeless now that shiraz, not cabernet sauvignon, is its main grape. It is on offer at Sainsbury for £4.99 this month; £5.39 at Victoria Wine.

Much better than Angas Brut is Ackerman Lorraine's stylish 1811 Saumur Rosé, whose pleasing, pale pink colour and fresh, strawberry-scented fruit is good value at £5.99 from Davison's.

If nothing but champagne will do for your loved one, get Tesco's own-label brut champagne with its brioche-like bouquet and biscuity champagne fruit, down £1 this month to £10.45.

You should also check out Majestic's new house champagne, Bauchet, from Biseuil near Epernay, at £8.99. Not everyone will like its stewed apple scent and taste, but it won't give you a hangover.

Best of the bunch among the Oddbins February bin ends are its non-vintage champagnes. Deutz's soft, fruity bubbly is one of the biggest bargains at £12.99, down from £15.49, and Charles Heidsieck's biscuity brut, £15.49 down from £17.99, also looks a good deal.

For most lovers of wine, the mood of euphoria could last all year. The reason is the growing wine war among the hard-pressed high street outlets. Several big companies are up for sale.

Takeovers, such as Wizard Wine's purchase of Majestic Wine Warehouses and the Thresher group's acquisition of the ailing Peter Dominic and Bottoms Up partnership, are good news for wine drinkers. The high street wine scene can only be improved by the removal of the dire bottles that previously made up the Peter Dominic range, and the per-



manently low-stocked position at Majestic.

Augustus Barnet could be the next casualty, with Victoria Wine the predicted purchaser.

So far, 1992 promises to be the year of the cut-throat wine deal. With the increase in VAT and higher prices from growers and merchants, it is astonishing that the drinkable £2.99 bottle continues, but it does — and next month one super-

### BEST BUYS

- 1983 Château Cosset Wizard Wine £15.95
- It is not often that wines of this calibre are stocked by the High Streeters. Counter's deep, rich, sweet, waxy wine is a great sauternes if ever there was one.
- 1989 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Pierre André Oddbins £6.99
- Still one of the most undervalued of the Rhône appellations, Monsieur André's organic wines are worth experiencing. This gorgeous spicy, syrah scented wine has lots of sunny fruit and was one of the top Rhônes at a recent Oddbins tasting.
- 1989 Château de Rognac, Bordeaux Supérieur, Sainsbury's £2.85 on special offer
- One of the best value clarets on Sainsbury's shelves now, but selling out fast. This fifty-fifty merlot and cabernet sauvignon blend has lots of ripe, juicy, plummy merlot fruit backed up by cabernet backbone. Try it.
- 1988 Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium Tritschkeineiner Apotheke Riesling Auslese The Victoria Wine Company £9.89
- Just the paddling wine to cheer up cold winter months. I love the delicate, flowery, green apple and lime flavours of this sweet late harvest German wine.

thing a £2.99 winter warmer should be. Half the price of most rosés, this blend of tempranillo and garnacha grapes from Rioja and Navarra proves that cheap Spanish wine does not have to be nasty.

Reduced to £2.99 from £3.19 until February 26 is the simple, cold-fermentation white 1991 Paarl Colombard. I enjoyed the vital floral scent and zesty, albeit slightly dull, fruit of this Cape wine.

Hardy's skilfully vinified Stamp Series duo are Safeway's sale gems at £2.99 for the white and £3.19 for the red (until the end of this month). Australian specialist Oddbins can match, but not beat, these prices and wines from the south Australian family firm of Thomas Hardy and Sons, when they first went on sale here. The 1991 Premium Classic Dry White is the best of the two, a fresh, tropical fruit combination of pineapple, lime and apricot. The 1990 Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon red has plenty of dark, juicy, blackberry and blackcurrant-like fruit, but is a shade less spectacular.

Wine drinkers who buy in bulk should go for Majestic's and Wizard Wines amazing 1991 Far Enough Pinot Noir from South Africa, at £2.99. It is recognisably a pinot noir wine with plenty of jammy, cherry fruit.

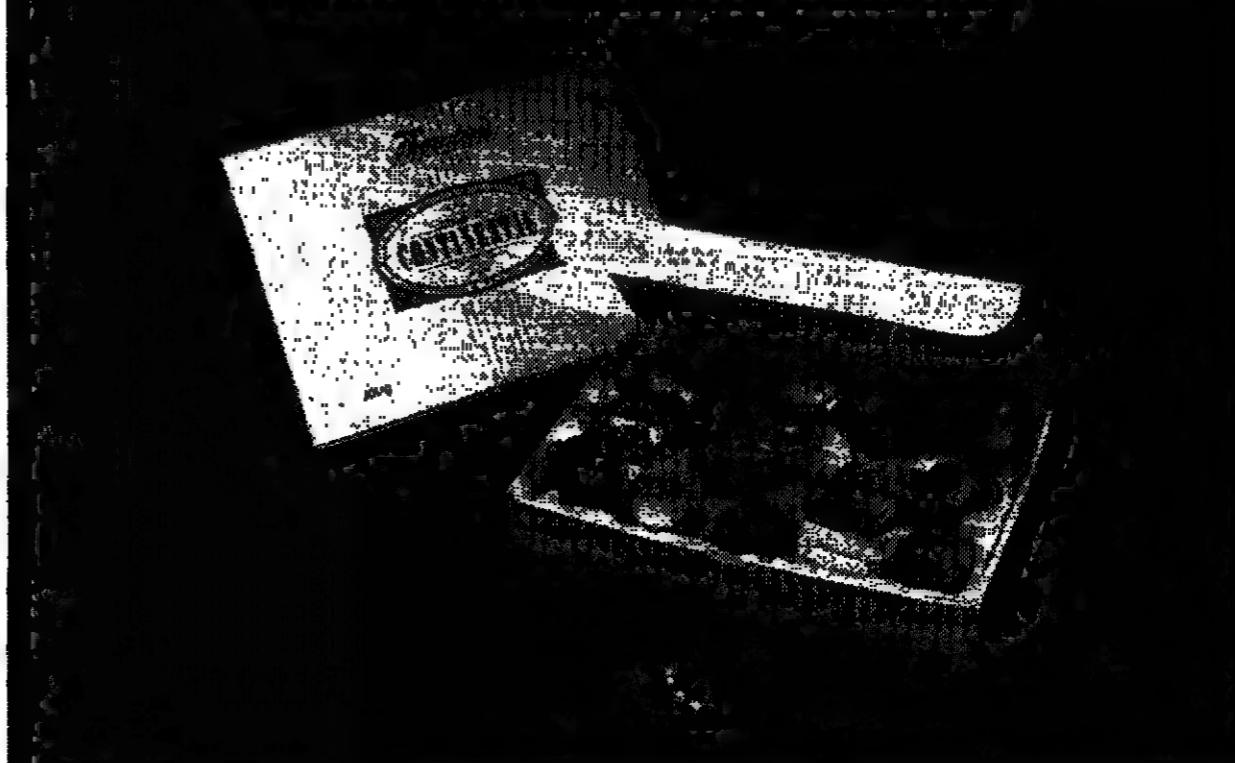
Majestic's other February bargains include a négociant-sourced £3.99 Morgan that is good but not great. It is, however, a bargain in that superior *cru* or village Beaujolais such as this fetch twice the price elsewhere.

Oddbins' regular Saturday tasting sessions include Australia's answer to beaujolais nouveau, the vibrant, inky 1990 Mitchelton Cab-Mac (£4.39) and the extraordinary 1990 The Catalyst from the Bonny Doon winery in California (£4.99). This glorious 100 per cent grenache wine is bright crimson red in colour and blessed with lots of ripe, spicy, rose-scented fruit.

The best of Sainsbury's multi-buy offers are its half-bottles of elegant, brown bread-scented 1990 Chablis, down 40p to £3.35, and Russie Weisriesling and Misket, a Bulgarian white, down 30p to £2.09.

Remember, if it's not a discounted, bin-end wine buy this month, don't buy it.

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If you would like a short description of the hotels offered, please state destination and country, and send a stamped, addressed envelope to: Flexibreaks Helpline, 126 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5NE.

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2 Holidays must be selected from the destinations and hotels listed for the minimum number of nights indicated, and for departure from the UK.

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9 The air fares and hotel rates listed may vary from those shown and will be confirmed at the time of booking.

10 All holidays will be booked by the Flexibreaks Travel Service (ABTA number 7791X, ATOL 2286) who will redeem the offer according to the Terms and Conditions printed here.

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Money \_\_\_\_\_ £500  
Personal accident \_\_\_\_\_ £25,000  
Public liability \_\_\_\_\_ £2 million  
Missed departure \_\_\_\_\_ £200  
Delayed departure \_\_\_\_\_ £60/3,500  
Loss of passport \_\_\_\_\_ £200  
Hospital inconvenience \_\_\_\_\_ £300  
Legal expenses/advice \_\_\_\_\_ £15,000  
Failure of provider \_\_\_\_\_ £3,500  
Emergency service - Europ Assistance

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE PREMIUMS 1992 (adult) rates in sterling

Period of cover	Europe	Australia/ New Zealand	Worldwide Excl USA/Can	USA/Canada
5 days	10	20	54	40
8 days	17	22	59	42
12 days	18	25	59	44
17 days	22	28	52	47
24 days	25	31	58	53
31 days	28	34	40	59

Excess waiver: An excess will apply on each and every claim. This can be waived on payment of an additional premium of £1 per person.

Children aged over two years and under 16 years: Half above premium.

Children under two at time of travel are insured free, providing they are travelling with an insured adult.

Persons aged 70 or over: Double premium (this only applies when travelling outside Europe).

Winter sports: Double premium.

be booked at preferential rates.  
• To work out the approximate cost of your holiday for two people, take the Apex fare for one person, and add the hotel cost multiplied by the number of days you wish to stay. Then add two insurance premiums from the chart above.

• Readers should then complete the booking form below and send it to the Flexibreaks Travel Service, together with a cheque for the deposit and insurance premium, and six differently numbered tokens. Postal bookings only.

• Please give a choice of dates if possible. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

• When Flexibreaks receives your booking form, you will be given a telephone quote for the holiday and any extra nights required. Once you decide to go ahead, Flexibreaks will book the flights and hotel, and give you all the details over the telephone. On acceptance of these, the holiday will be booked and an invoice sent. If we cannot meet your requirements, your cheque will be returned.

• Tickets, hotel vouchers and insurance policy will be sent ten-14 days before departure.

Please remember to attach your six differently numbered Fly free - Stay free tokens to the booking form

#### THE TIMES FLEXIBREAKS OFFER BOOKING FORM

Please read the Terms and Conditions of the offer and the How to Book details before completing this booking form

Name (person applying)  
Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ (Surname) \_\_\_\_\_ (First name) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Home tel \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime tel \_\_\_\_\_

Name of companion:  
Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ (Surname) \_\_\_\_\_ (First name) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other people in party \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday destination town \_\_\_\_\_

Departure airport (from UK) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred departure dates:

1st choice: Out \_\_\_\_\_ Return \_\_\_\_\_

2nd choice: Out \_\_\_\_\_ Return \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred hotel \_\_\_\_\_

Type of room: (tick) Double  Twin  Family room

Number of nights' stay \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests:

I, being the person authorised by all persons listed above to act on their behalf, have read the Terms and Conditions which I understand and accept. Please arrange the holiday detailed above, in respect of which I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ being the deposit and insurance. (Please make cheques payable to "Flexibreaks Travel Service")

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* Person to whom all correspondence should be sent

Send completed and signed booking form to:

The Times/Fly Free - Stay Free Offer

Flexibreaks Travel Service, 61 Bayham Place, London NW1 0ET

# The right ram for the job?

#### FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Ever since the suggestion was made that Europe should launch a spy satellite to snoop on farmers and record the movements of livestock, there has been an outcry. Mr Gunner is against it, the Farmers' Union detests the idea, the press think it is a huge joke.

Well, I am all in favour of it and the closer the scrutiny to which we are subjected the better. It may be considered, folly to spend £53 billion to prevent a £27 billion fraud, which is the real reason this satellite is being launched, but for my convenience I think it will be money well spent.

10 All holidays will be booked by the Flexibreaks Travel Service (ABTA number 7791X, ATOL 2286) who will redeem the offer according to the Terms and Conditions printed here.

The suppliers' own conditions will also apply.

11 All holidays are subject to availability. The right is reserved to substitute alternative hotels if necessary. All information is correct at the time of going to press.

I know it will pose certain problems that will need careful handling: for example, it is the habit of Alice, our Large Black, to relieve herself in exactly the same spot in the corner of the run adjoining her sty.

As she ambles on these discreet

little journeys to her corner, she may be far from happy at the thought of being watched. She has her pride, I shall assure her that Brussels officials are well-meaning enough to avert their eyes from their screens when they realise why she is on the move, and that she is not nipping off to collect some fraudulent subsidy.

The real reason I am in favour of it is because it will finally solve

what is becoming one of the great farm mysteries. It boils down to this: unbeknown to me, at some stage during the second week of September our ram went missing. I don't know where he went, how he got out, or even how he got back in again. But there is an ever-growing mountain of evidence that this old soldier went without leave. For all I know, we may be looking at a case of extreme cowardice.

Well, I am all in favour of it and the closer the scrutiny to which we are subjected the better. It may be considered, folly to spend £53 billion to prevent a £27 billion fraud, which is the real reason this satellite is being launched, but for my convenience I think it will be money well spent.

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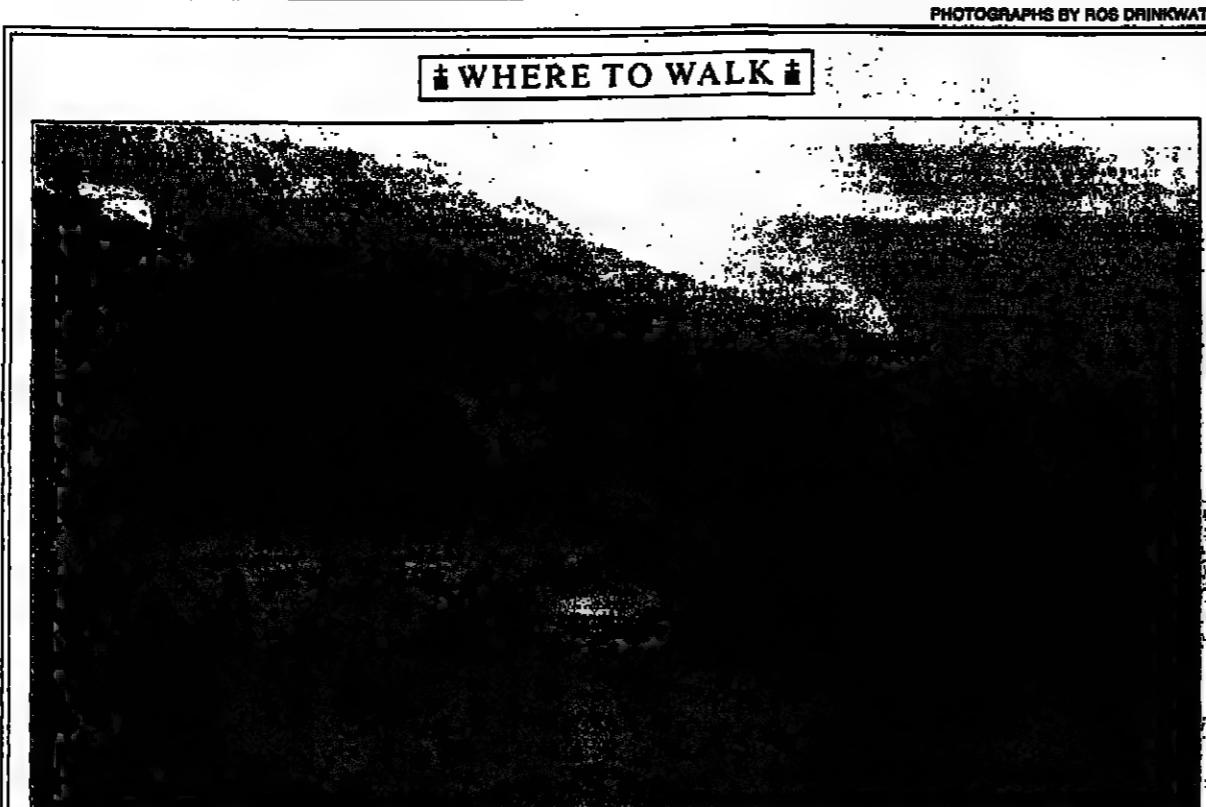
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Still waters running deep: Llyn Padarn, where wood warblers pipe and great spotted woodpeckers hammer

The "big walk" in these parts, inaugurated by the Rucksack Club in 1919, starts from Snowdon's summit and encompasses 24 miles and 11,000 feet of ascents to tour all 14 of the 3,000ft peaks in Wales. For the less ambitiously inclined I offer instead a gentle, relatively undemanding perambulation of Llyn Padarn.

It starts from the car-park in Padarn Country Park, Llanberis. Follow the park trail signs up the steep incline down which trolley cars brought slate to the workshops, and turn left on to the unmetalled roadway past the Vivian Quarry, with a slate car still suspended above its pool, and climbers probably tackling the Dervish and Conscience slabs on the right of the third and fourth quarry tiers.

Follow the road under slate walling and a bridge dated 1886 to the Quarry Hospital, now restored as a visitor centre showing how it operated in Victorian times. Hospitalisation was not always enough for quarry accidents. The building in the corner of the garden which you pass as you leave was the mortuary.

At the top of the climb through sessile oak woods, where wood warblers pipe through May and June, great spotted woodpeckers hammer and pied flycatchers breed, a bench on the right has a good view of Snowdon's summit on clear days. Looking slightly right of the 13th-century ruins of Dolbadarn Castle, and just below the first ridge, you may discern the silhouette in the mountainside fancifully called "The Lady of Snowdon".

The path goes down to a wooden gate by the Fachwen stream. A short diversion left takes you down to the ruins of an old woolen mill and its workers' cottages. The disused building on the left may have been the manager's house, and the ditch by the path once carried the water to drive the machinery. Return, and go through the wooden gate and over the slate slab bridge across the river. Follow the Gwynedd county council logo sign on up the main path, not the yellow footprint trail sign climbing away to the right.

You pass some small disused quarries, in one of which caravan dwellers are now keeping livestock including a



Local colour: a cottage by the lake

pair of bright ginger pigs. You pass under a disused line which would have brought slate down from one quarry to the lakeside railway, which opened in 1843 to carry Dinorwic slate for shipment to Liverpool and the world. You pass envirably sited derelict cottages, and head up the bank by a footpath making straight for a television relay mast, to reach the Fachwen road through a kissing gate by a phone box. Turn left and descend, past cottages with outstanding views and a derelict slate-hung chapel, into conifer wood, where you may spot goldcrests. By the Padarn Park sign there is a small car-park on the left, and on the right you are likely to see a local outdoor pursuits centre initiating rock climbers of the future.

In the areas of scrub look out for whitethroats, wrens, whinchat and stonechats. At the end of the lake cross the disused track of the lakeside railway, and the 18th-century Pen y Llyn bridge. Keep to the disused

roadway along the lakeside, crossing a stile. At a second, now redundant stile, turn briefly right through a gap in the wall to see a plaque commemorating the centenary of the North Wales Quarrymen's Union, whose leaders used this Craig yr Undeb (Rock of the Union) to address their rally. Cross a third stile and turn briefly right, back toward Caernarfon, to cross the A4086, and through a wooden gateway on the left-hand side of the road, turning back to walk through a tunnel on the dismantled line of the one-time Llanberis-Caernarfon railway.

Alternatively avoid crossing the road and walking through the tunnel by turning left and following the A4086 for about 60 yards to a gap in the wall, where steps descend up the former railway line.

Follow the line along the lakeside, over an embankment causeway and past Y Glyn water sports area before emerging on to the A4086 again at the start of the Llanberis by-pass. Go through the children's recreation area beside the lake, cross two footbridges and follow the line of stiles across the lakeside fields until you reach the bridge over the river. Join up with the access road leading to the car-park.

**The walk, including detours, is about 5½ miles of moderate easy walking, with some moderate parts on stony roads. The OS map reference for the starting point is in the car-park at Giltfach Ddu is SH587604. Outdoor Leisure Map 17: Snowdonia, or Landranger 115: Snowdon.**



Map showing the area around Llyn Padarn, including the A4086 road, the Llanberis by-pass, and various landmarks like Dolbadarn Castle, Pen y Llyn bridge, and the Fachwen stream.

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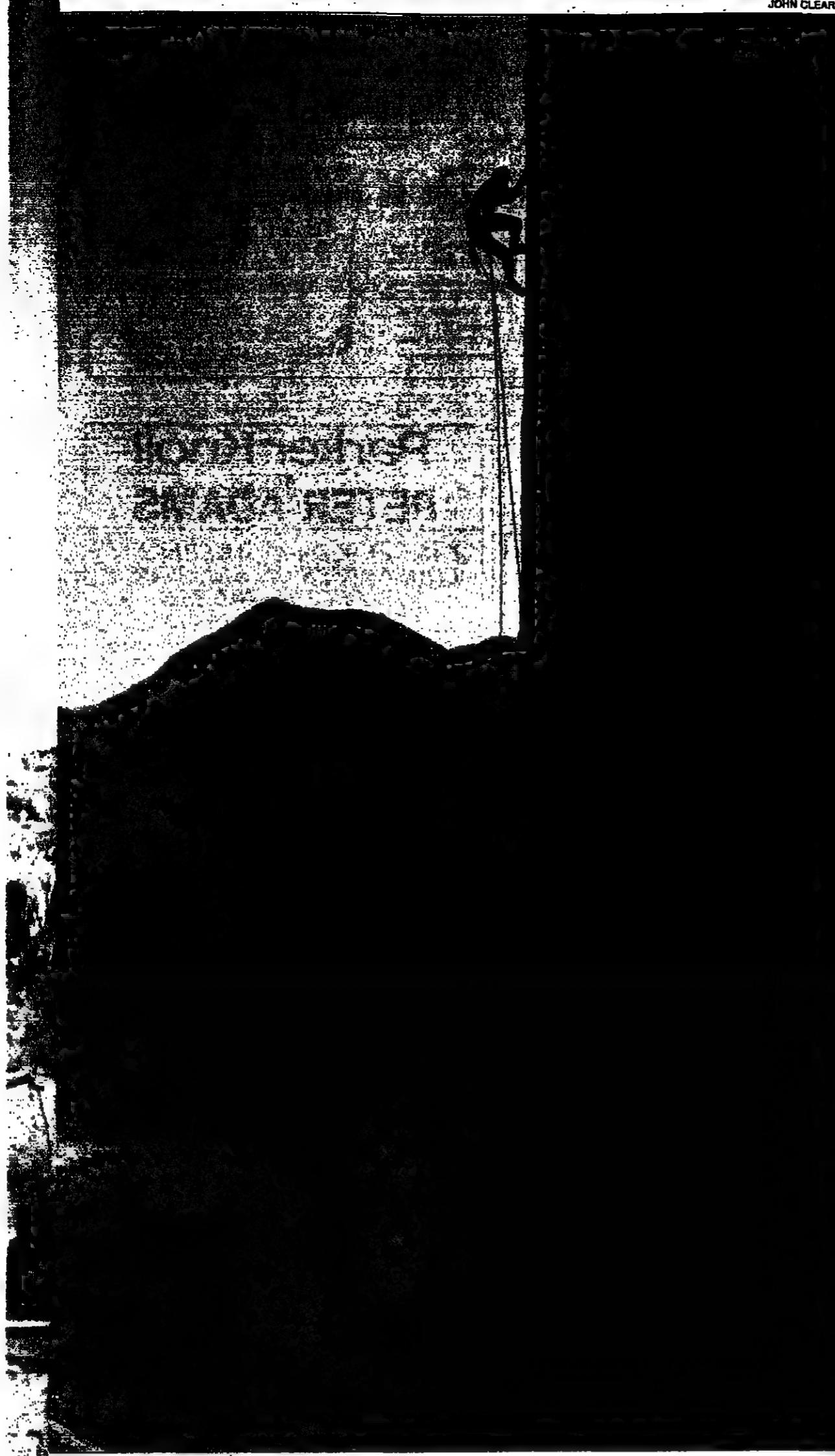
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Jelly in 110



action on the left wall of Cenotaph Corner, on the steep crag of Dinas Cromlech, high above Llanberis Pass

lanberis path up Snowdon, enough to crest the rise and the green tin refreshment shack known as Halfway te. What bears in front of them is the high altar of th climbing, the uncomfusingly majestic walls, and buttresses of Clogwyn Ardud.

Clogwyn means "precipice" in Welsh, and a frightful, sheer, black precipice it is. The first to known to have climbed ovars on a plant-collection expedition in 1798, admittely only went on up use once they had started danger of again descending as much too great for us to attempting it. Now the s Cloggy to its irrepressible r. Cloggy currently has climbs rated E7, one E9, our "impossible", "ungratifying" or "unjustifiable".

Before leaving the Dinas tech lay-by, turn round. The delectable little crag opposite Dinas Cromlech on the south side of the pass is Dinas Mot, whose climb rate "very severe" to E2. The other reason to look, though, is that this cliff face is one of the best places in the pass to see ravens and peregrine falcons. Ravens are common in Snowdonia, half as big again as a crow, readily identified by their deep-throated, croaking "prok prok" and habit of rolling over as they fly.

The breathtakingly fast peregrines will be hunting the lower ground and coastline until next month, but then they return to the higher crags to breed.

You may also see ravens, peregrines and sleek black choughs, with their crimson legs and bills, in the Dinorwic quarries facing Llanberis, where up to 3,000 men once toiled cutting and blasting vast terraces into the bole of Elidir Fawr. These were the largest slate quarries in the world. They are still the most picturesque.

The quarrying, which covered 700 acres of the mountain, stopped just weeks after Dinorwic had provided the slate for the dais, throne and lectern at the Prince of Wales's 1969 investiture in Caernarfon Castle. The great faces of grey, green and blue slate have given the rock climbers a new winter practice ground.

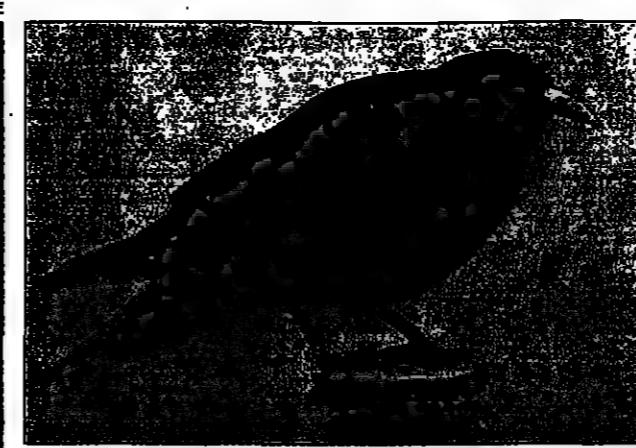
For those with no head for heights, the fort-like quarry workshops have been turned into a slate museum; part of the old railway that carried slate down to Port Dinorwic now serves as a lakeside run for tourists (it restarts on March 2), and the Power of Wales exhibition centre by the lake can arrange a visit to the National Grid's Dinorwic pumped storage power station, buried in Elidir Fawr in a vault big enough to swallow a 16-storey building.

*The latest climbers' guide, Rock Climbing in Snowdonia, by Paul Williams, is published by Constable. £9.95.*

## lap of hotel luxury

It can be a the-ent in many ways how matey to be guests, whether side your door — nennial dilemma leave something or the individual bed, shapes the out clean towels ner? Should you J. 15, 20 per cent the business of service, you may u pay for as well — although some erring largesse.

successful visit, need equanimity vial rebuffs. All coasters, you re- feables record- ous downside of eating, you should ell ahead of the

RUBINSTEIN  
Total Guide (Mac-

Bird brains: sleek black chough in the Dinorwic quarries



Home sweet home: Ty Hyll or "ugly house", Llanberis



Welsh welcome: fearless sheep greet visitors in the car-park

### ★ WHERE TO STAY ★

Climbers tend to bivouac unofficially in the Llanberis Pass below Clogwyn y Grochan or Dinas Cromlech, or to use camp sites and bed and breakfast accommodation such as Humphreys centrally heated Bunkhouse at Gwastadnant, Nant Peris (0286 870356), or the Youth Hostel at Pen-y-Pass on the site of the Gorphwysa Hotel, where Geoffrey Winthrop Young brought his Easter climbing parties (0286 870428). There is another Youth Hostel at Llynn Celyn up Capel Goch Road, Llanberis (0286 870280).

Among Llanberis hotels the climbers' favourite is The Heights which offers five en suite rooms and "alpine" accommodation in three dormitories, sleeping eight each. Dormitories £9 a night, £12 with breakfast. En suite £18 per person B&B. The hotel has a climbing wall free

to residents; otherwise £1 an hour (0286 871179).

Better heeled mountaineers are to be found at the Pen-y-Gwryd on the south side of the pass at the junction of the A498 and A4086, which is open at weekends only until March. There are 22 clean rooms, one with en suite

facilities. The others share four bathrooms. B&B £19, or £23 in en suite room (0286 870211 or 870768).

Those seeking more luxuri-

ous creature comforts will head for Seiont Manor Hotel, Llanrug, which has 28 en-suite bedrooms, 150 acres of parkland, salmon and trout

fishings, an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and solarium. Single £72.50, double/twin £99.50, suites £150 to £175 (0286 673366).

The largest hotel in Llanberis is the 116-room Royal Victoria, between Lakes Padarn and Peris. An International Hotel, it is offering any three nights for the price of two during February. Single £33, twin/ double £57, bargain break from April (two nights room with breakfast and dinner) £73 per person (0286 870253).

The Padarn Lake Hotel has 18 bedrooms. Single £29, double £49, two-day breaks including dinners £63 to £68 per person (0286 870260). Glyn-Glyn is an AA one-star offering B&B from £16.50 (0286 870370), and Alpine Lodge is a member of Les Routiers offering en-suite accommodation for £29 single, £39 double, family rooms £49 for three or £59 for four.



Climber comfort: in the Seiont Manor Hotel at Llanrug

### ★ WHERE TO EAT ★

● The climbers' eating place and watering hole in Llanberis is Pete's Eats, 40 High Street, where the walls are covered with photos of climbers doing impossible things, and where a "New Routes" book is maintained to fuel gossip about latest achievements and climbing scandals. A chip bun costs £1, and the most ambitious dish, a "Big Jim" (liver, bacon, tomatoes, mushrooms, peas and

double potatoes), named in memory of the late Phil "Big Jim" Jewell, "one of Cloggy's most fervent disciples", is £6.95. Tea comes in mugs containing a pint or so (48p).

● The Heights specialises in vegetarian and wholemeal food, with daily specials on a blackboard. A wholesome three-course meal costs about £9. Anseis beers.

● At Pen-y-Gwryd there are robust bar snacks at Pete's Eats, 43-45 High Street, opposite

lunchtime bar in the evening, at the sound of a gong, usually at 7.30, they sit down together for a robbery-five-course dinner built to baffle mountaineering appetites (£11). The hotel serves Bass beer and imports sherry from its own solera in Puerto Santa Maria. Must book (0286 870211/ 870768).

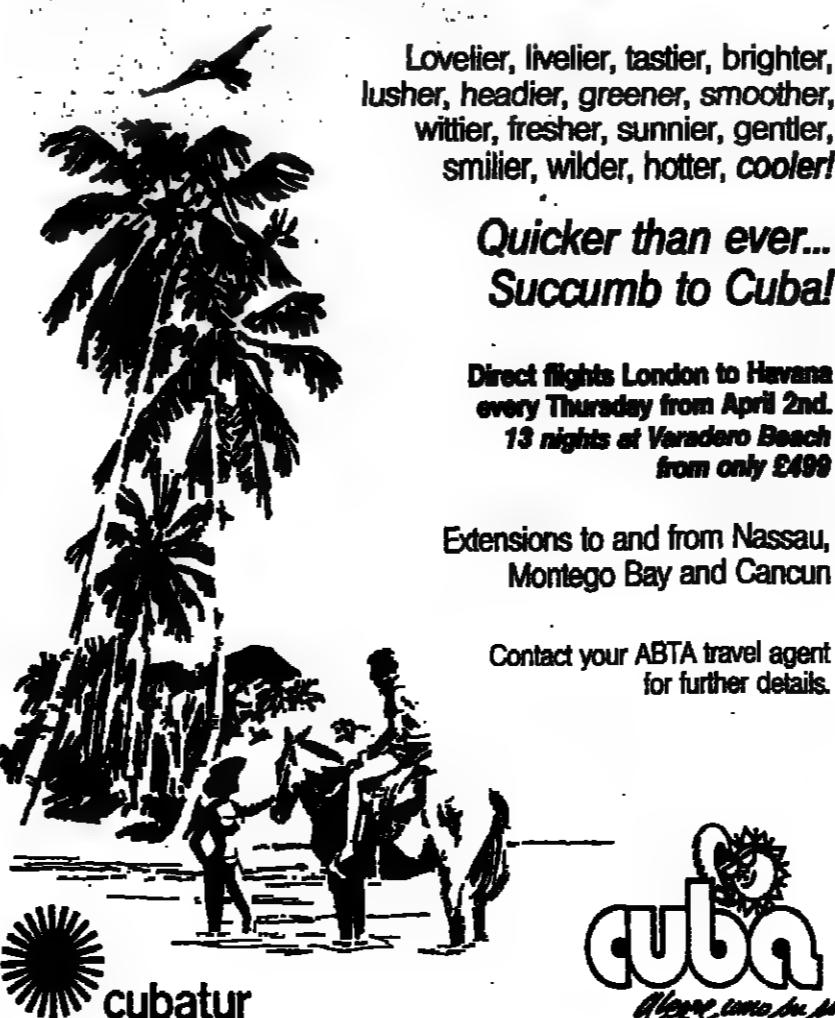
● In Llanberis Y Bistro, 43-45 High Street, opposite

Pete's Eats, has a

reputation for Nerys Roberts's homely Welsh cooking featuring local produce. Dinners only, two courses £16.50, three £19 or four £21 (0286 871278).

● The most ambitious pub food in the area is to be found at the Glynwrog, Llanrug, (Anseis) on the Llanberis-Caernarfon road, where rump steaks range from 5oz at £4.85 to a tigerish 32oz at £11.25, and there are fish and vegetarian dishes too.

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# Paradise regained in Sherwood

Francesca Greenoak admires the tropical splendour of a Center Parc

**C**enter Parc holidays offer bikes, boats, sports and walks in the woodland of Sherwood Forest, among other locations — but the principal attraction is the huge, transparent dome enclosing the semi-tropical swimming pools, chutes and artificial rapids, all grown about with exotic vegetation.

The plants are a large part of the glamour and range from tall palms, their ostrich feather fronds reaching almost to the top of the dome, to the tiny creeping fig; from the curtains of climbing bougainvilleas to the stout, blue-grey olive trees and brilliant sterilized bird of paradise flowers.

Barry Collins, the head gardener, is the young man responsible for the smooth running of the dome and outdoor planting. He explained how ideas have developed over the five years since the first Center Parc opened.

The organisation is now the largest importer of semi-tropical plants in Europe, and constantly looks for new and interesting plants or grows better-known ones in unusual ways.

In consequence the dome-greenhouse is one of the most interesting gardening phenomena in Britain today, a place to see warm-climate plants grown to perfection and to spy new ideas for house plants and domestic conservatories.

Few private owners would have room for a 36ft date palm or 24ft fan palms, such as the livistona or washingtonia, which give height and elegance to the dome landscape. However, if they are started from smaller specimens, they grow to a more manageable 3ft or so in a warm conservatory (not falling below 10C/50F).

In dry and partially shaded parts of the dome, the long-leaved peace lily, spathiphyllum, and the glossy-leaved vine (*Cissus antarctica*) prove their worth; in normal domestic surroundings they survive poor conditions and a degree of neglect.

Plants characterised by large, broad leaves and grown for foliage effects — syngoniums, anthuriums and scindapsus — have forms with variegations in pinks, reds and golds; or vein patterns and spathes of startling beauty. They can be discovered in adventurous garden centres and houseplant nurseries.

Indoor gardening has a lot to offer the intrepid explorer; key points for these plants is to give reasonable light (not direct sun), not to overwater in winter, but to keep the atmosphere around the plant humid by placing the pot on an inch of wet gravel in the base of its planter.

The plants in the Sherwood dome must be in prime condition. "It is hard work, because all the maintenance gardening and tidying has to be done before the dome opens, or overnight," Mr Collins says. "But you can't have flops in an all-season paradise."

All the plants are, in effect, container-grown: raised-bed structures a little more than 3ft at their widest and nowhere deeper than 60cm/2ft, which are filled with a mixture of clay-loam and organic materials.

Few supports are needed because the plants brace their roots against the sides of the containers. What is required is strong healthy plants rather than a fast growth, so feeding is sparing and with a fertiliser based on farmyard manure.

Company policy in the woodland park and within the dome is to pursue environmentally-friendly horticultural procedures. In the dome it makes absolute sense: up to 300 people can be expected to be enjoying themselves there on any one day of the year, and it would be extremely unwise to use any hazardous pesticides.

So cultivation techniques are organic and pest-control is biological (using a wide range of parasitic insects) — a practice which also works in warm conservatories.



Undercover operation: some of the tropical foliage that flourishes under the Center Parc domes

## BEST BUYS

JUST in time for the seed-sowing season, *The Vegetable Finder* (published by HDRA, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG, £3.55 inc p&p) makes it possible to find vegetable favourites which were previously difficult to trace. Compiler Jeremy Cherfas has reviewed as many seed catalogues as possible and listed all vegetables known to be on sale, together with the supplier. This applies to such old varieties as Ragged Jack and Russian Red kales; less common varieties, such as broad-leaved endive, Golde; and new ones, such as Thompson and Morgan's new F1 tomato Sungold.



## WEEKEND TIPS

- Sow broad beans in seed trays in the greenhouse in cold areas, in cold frames or in the ground of warmer regions.
- Set potatoes, main crop upwards. In seed trays in a cool, light place, so they can make strong sprouts.
- Take cuttings from chrysanthemums growing in a greenhouse (give them an ambient temperature of 7C/45F, or put them in a propagator).
- Prune climbing roses if not done earlier and tie in long shoots as horizontally as possible.
- Avoid walking on lawns that are white with frost.

## MY PERFECT WEEKEND

We ask people in the public eye to reveal the private fantasies that would turn a weekend into 48 hours of pure magic

**A. L. ROWSE**  
*Historian*

Where would you go? At my disgruntled advanced age (88) I am rather stuck in Cornwall, but I should like to go back once more for a weekend at my famous and beloved old Oxford college — All Souls; particularly to see old friends like Douglas Jay, Quintin Hailsham and Roger Shepherd. Marooned on my Cornish headland I feel out of touch with things.

How would you get there? I always loved driving up from Cornwall by road; not so much by the new motorways but by the old, historic main roads that took one through such fascinating country — the Devon-Somerset border, the Wiltshire-Berkshire Downs. Such lovely places to picnic.

Where would you stay? In college. Nowhere better.

Who would be your perfect companion? My old Oxford friend David Treffry, at present also stuck in Cornwall as high sheriff. We share the same tastes — seeing historic places, churches, National Trust showplaces.

What essentials would you take? Maps; maps of course.

Which, if any, medicines? I find Seven Seas cod-liver oil pills pep one up, especially in winter.

What would you have to eat? As an old master of that by no means exclusive club, the Duodenal Club, I have to be abstemious. But All Souls' cooking was always good; one could pick and choose.

What would you drink? Though I have lived most of my life over one of the best bars in Oxford, it meant nothing to me. Like Dr Johnson, I am a tea addict.

What would you take to read? Something French for a change, Colette perhaps. But I am always re-reading Jane Austen.

What three things would you leave behind? Three of my books for libraries. To whom would you send a postcard? To Phyllis, my housekeeper.

What souvenir would you bring home? A book I couldn't get in Cornwall.

What would you like to find when you got home? My loving little cat, Flippy. But, alas, she raised its ugly head and one night he went out across the fields and got killed.



research and found Shakespeare's Dark Lady lying in wait for me. Two, revisit the Ashmolean Museum to see its latest acquisitions. Three, walk round my favourite Merton College garden, or Addison's Walk at Magdalen.

What music would you enjoy? I should like to hear the cathedral service at Christ Church once more, or evensong at New College.

What would you watch on television? I do not watch television, though I sometimes appear on it.

What luxury would you take? Your least welcome guest? Some gashly leftist politician, like Tony Benn, or horrible modernist poet, like Allen Ginsberg.

What three things would you leave behind? Three of my books for libraries.

To whom would you send a postcard? To Phyllis, my housekeeper.

What souvenir would you bring home? A book I couldn't get in Cornwall.

What would you like to find when you got home? My loving little cat, Flippy. But, alas, she raised its ugly head and one night he went out across the fields and got killed.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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# All the world is his canvas

Kay Marles takes a voyage round four-year-old Seth Royston's bedroom wall

## me & my decorator

**W**hen Susan Royston opened the XYZ boutique in Hampstead, north London, she wanted it to have its own distinctive personality. It already had a lot of her personality through her choice of clothes, jewellry, belts and bags. But for her interior she wanted something very different.

"That was in the mid 1980s," she says, "and I wanted a feeling of warmth and comfort that people would enjoy and remember and want to return to."

Today XYZ is regarded as one of the chic-est of Hampstead's many chic shops. The walls are painted in muted shades of grey, blue, tone and tangerine, with strong designs of triangles, circles and semi-circles outlined in dark grey and black.

They were painted by Richard Walker, who answered Mrs Royston's advertisement in *Interiors* magazine.

An artist herself and a graduate of St Martin's College of Art, central London, she sensed immi-

ediately that they were on the same wavelength.

"His portfolio was mostly of New York street scenes and buildings and his style was just right for me," she says.

Together they produced a set of drawings and Mr Walker set about creating an original piece of work around the walls.

The foray into wall paintings was a first for Mr Walker, who works from a riverside studio in Lewes, Sussex. His paintings today sell for up to £6,000 and his works are shown at the Jill George (formerly the Thum) Gallery in London, and the Madison Galleries in Los Angeles.

When Mrs Royston bought a house in Hampstead Garden Suburb, north London, five years ago, it seemed natural not only to hang her collection of Mr Walker's paintings there, but also to get him to paint some of the rooms.

Mrs Royston's house was built in 1907 by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott — a contemporary of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Built as a "farmhouse cottage", it is full of well-preserved architectural details and features of its period. All the walls on the upper floor are angled up to the eaves. Other interesting details include an octagonal study, three well-preserved oak newel posts on the central staircase, and original brick and mosaic fireplaces.

Mrs Royston has been at pains to restore the original features and furnish the house in a simple style in keeping with its design.

Mr Walker decorated a downstairs cloakroom with painted "stained glass" windows in the style of Antoni Gaudi, and the Sagrada Família cathedral, and the Gaudi gardens in Barcelona, and painted an upstairs bathroom in black and white line-drawings inspired by Egyptian

hieroglyphics. He then turned his attention to a nursery for the baby Mrs Royston was expecting.

"I knew that the theme would be the world," he says. "I was travelling a lot at the time and I wanted to do something that was going to be educational as well as fun."

He settled on a mural called "The World in a Room", which fills the wall just above the bed. Using primary and secondary colours — neither of them wanted

it to be blue or pink, they say — he has created a cartoon-style journey around the world.

"I wanted to paint something that the child could look at while he was growing up," he says. "So while there are recognisable symbols like the Eiffel Tower and the Taj Mahal, I also painted in a lot of small detail."

Working closely with Mrs Royston, the mural quickly evolved from early sketches. The cartoon

starts with an imaginary English home with cows in the fields, and moves on through Europe to India, China, Japan, the Sydney Opera House, Hollywood, New York and back to London.

The walls are alive with people and jokes — there is a Frenchman in a beret selling onions, a cross-Channel swimmer about to dive, a body-builder in Australia, graffiti on the New York subway and whaling off the Caribbean islands.

Mrs Royston is delighted to have got well away from the cute frieze that normally decorates a children's room. "I think it's great," she says. "It's quirky and nicely blended and it's just as appealing to an adult as to a child."

Her son Seth, now four, loves it. "It's his and that's how he thinks of it. I sometimes hear him talking to the cowboy on the horse in the Texan drawing," she says.

**Cartoon fun: artist Richard Walker and Susan Royston in the colourful round-the-world bedroom they created for Seth at the house in Hampstead Garden Suburb**

**SCIENCE MUSEUM**

**Buyers' Italy**

**CALABRIA**

**In the inland villages unrestored houses, typically two-up-two-down plus an attic and ornate wrought-iron balconies, but no garden, can be found for as little as £6,000. A larger town house in good condition, with a modernised kitchen and bath, terrace and a garden, will set you back around £35,000.**

**A remote house without neighbours in this part of southern Italy may entail a certain amount of risk from robbers. However, Calabria is not totally lawless, and more properties for sale are close to villages and perfectly safe.**

**Large country houses in need of renovation, with an acre or two of vines and fruit trees, can be found for around £70,000. A little peasant house, fully restored, with two double bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen and bath, is currently for sale at £14,421, near the old village of Daffina, about three miles inland (through Brian French and Associates).**

**The airport at Lamezia, about an hour's drive north of Tropea, operates internationally during the summer months, with flights from some UK airports. There are year-round daily domestic flights from Rome, with connecting flights to Heathrow and Gatwick.**

CHERYL TAYLOR

## Treasure in the deep south

**T**he quaint terrace house shown on the right is for sale at £6,962 in the medieval village of Drapia, about 20 minutes inland from the Calabrian coast at Tropea, an hour from the airport at Lamezia.

The old house, in honey-coloured stone, is known locally as Casa Delle Due Sorelle (House of the Two Sisters). It is structurally sound with 12in thick walls, but requires restoration and connection to mains water and electricity. Built on three levels, it has one large room on each floor with balconies, and an attic above which could be converted to provide an extra bedroom or bathroom.

The UK agent is Brian A. French & Associates, 12 High Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire (0423 867047 or 0724 0114).

Calabria is the southernmost province of Italy, and perhaps the least known. It remains largely undiscovered by British house-hunters. Prices are low and there is a good range of property.

Almost all of Calabria is mountainous, lush and forested in parts, fringed by some of the longest, broadest, least polluted beaches in Italy. It has almost 300 miles of coastline, many picturesque towns and villages.



Play a balcony scene at Drapia

and a beautifully forested highland region called the Sila, just east of the Calabrian capital, Cosenza.

Wolves and boar roam the densely wooded mountains at the heart of the Sila, and there are good facilities for walking and climbing in summer, and skiing in winter. The southern tip of Calabria, between the mountains and the sea, is one of Italy's most fertile regions, famous for jasmine and bergamot used in the production of perfumes, and for citrus fruits.

There has been some development on the scenic western coast, mostly purpose-built holiday villages around the lovely old cliff-top town of Tropea, with its narrow streets and tall, shuttered houses, adorned with brightly coloured geraniums.

Newly-built coastal properties here, within sight of the volcano island of Stromboli and Sicily's northern coast, are sought-after by Italian buyers, and tend to be more expensive than traditional homes. Prices start around £40,000 for a small seaside villa, with a verandah, roof terrace and a small garden.

### Heap of the week: Revesby Abbey



Communal living: plans for Revesby Abbey involve 28 small apartments sharing the main rooms

### Charm on a grand scale

**M**ichael Heseltine said he was considering serving a repairs notice on Revesby Abbey, in Lincolnshire, as long ago as 1981, but it took his successors six years to find themselves into action. By then, Revesby had been empty and decaying for more than 20 years, the subject of repeated attempts to demolish, despite its Grade I listing.

English Heritage then moved swiftly to carry out a substantial programme of major repairs and sent the £119,000 bill to the owner. Shortly afterwards the house was sold with ten acres to FIL, a property company, but since then water had begun again to seep through the roof, bringing plasterwork crashing down over the stairs. Recently East Lindsey district council has become so concerned that it is considering a further repairs notice if the roof is not patched up.

For their part the present owners can say it has taken a frustratingly long time to obtain consents. Though planning permission was granted in December 1990, the final legal agreements are only now being tied up.

Requests were made not only for detailed plans, but for a land survey specifying what plants would be planted where. Farouq Sheikh of FIL now says: "In the

present climate we cannot begin

work without a very substantial grant from English Heritage."

His plans do not apportion the

main rooms among a number of

large units, as Kit Martin has

done in similar country house

schemes. Instead they are kept for

communal use. This is a fine idea,

but necessitates a substantial service charge, which FIL believes is

better shared among 28 smaller

apartments in the main house and

a further 15 mews houses in the

stable courtyard. "Most of our

previous experience has been in

London where you must make use

of every square foot: the main

house at Revesby has 35,000

square feet," Mr Sheikh says.

Revesby is announced by a

splendid screen of iron railings on

the A155 from Tattershall to

Spilsby, but the house is well set

back and largely secluded among

trees.

It was one of a group of

Lincolnshire houses (the others are

Stoke Rochford, Rauceby, and a

part of Harlaxton) built to the

designs of the prolific Scottish

architect, William Burn. He was a

pioneer of the Elizabethan and

Jacobean revivals and his houses

are marked by an almost feminine

charm and delicacy of detail. He

was a master of country house

planning. "He knew his clients,

the minutiae of their regularly

ordered lives, their desire for

privacy both from their servants

and their constant round of

guests," says Burn's biographer,

David Walker.

Revesby was built in 1843-44,

soon after Burn had moved to

London, for J. Banks Stanhope.

The style is Jacobean — a riot of

bay windows, oriel, shaped gables,

finials and barley sugar

chimneys. Inside there is hand-

some panelling and plasterwork,

not only in 1600 style but opulent

Baroque as well.

MARCUS BINNEY

• For further information contact Mr Farouq Sheikh (0923 835222)

CALLUM MURRAY

# Fame, fickleness and fakes

Sarah Jane

Checkland on the background to the alleged Whieldon ware copies

**T**he news that £1 million of supposedly 18th-century Staffordshire pottery could be worthless copies made in the mid 1980s has sent a nervous ripple around the market, particularly among owners of the category known as Whieldon ware.

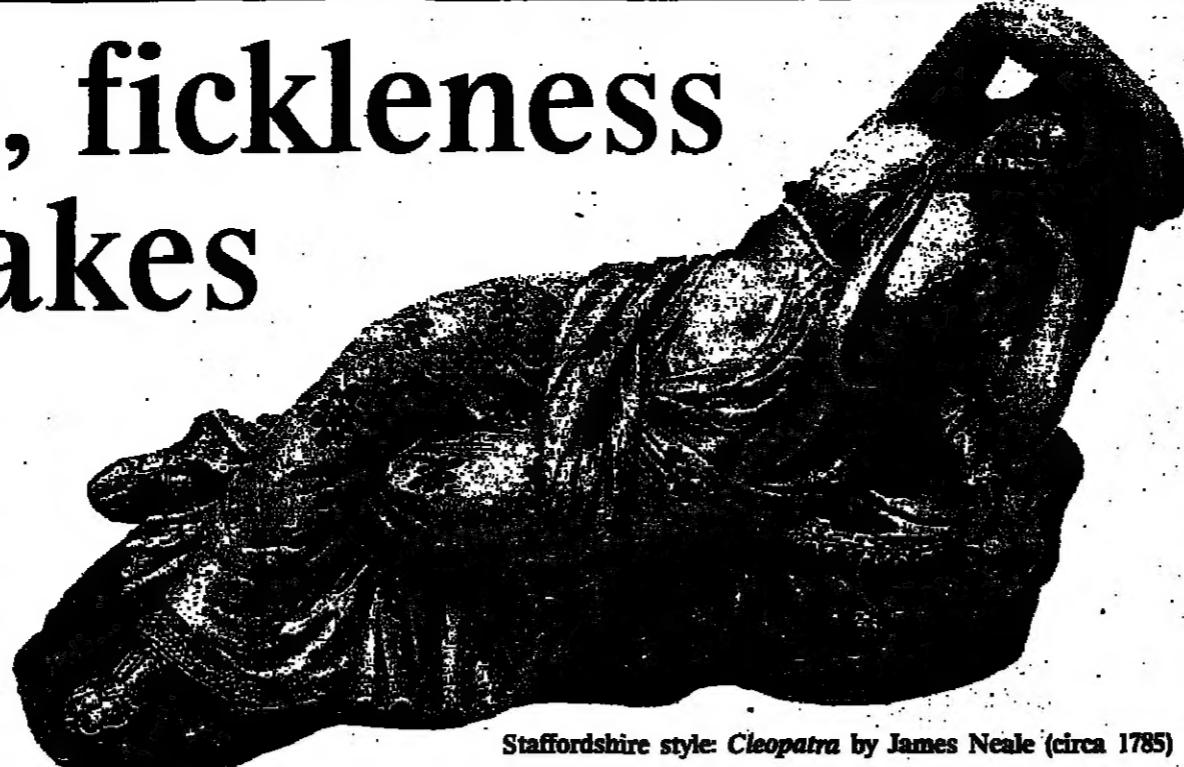
Two American collectors have handed over about 40 pieces to Sculand Yard's art and antiques squad for scientific testing. A number of the pieces feature, potentially embarrassingly for Sotheby's, in *English Stoneware and Earthenware 1650-1800: the Whieldon Collection*, published recently by the auction house at £100.

The New York-based collector Henry Whieldon has issued a writ against the London dealers Lindsay Antiques claiming a refund for the £435,000 he spent on 13 items between June 1987 and December 1988, plus £203,600 in interest charges.

The goods supplied by the dealers, he says, were "not those contracted to be sold but were forgeries of no value". He says that what he bought included items described as "a very rare Staffordshire (Whieldon coloured glazes) owl jug and cover 6.25 inches high, circa 1750", at £50,000, and a "unique Whieldon seven branch candelabrum, circa 1745", which cost £67,500.

When asked last week whether the company was contesting the writ, Lindsay Shand, a partner in Lindsay Antiques, said he could not comment.

Staffordshire pottery is one of the most charming manifestations of our early industrial culture. Its craftsmen created a seemingly infinite menagerie of figures, including exotic birds (often endearingly inaccurate because the potters had not actually seen their subjects); sleepy farm animals such as cows and bulls; and lumpy, but not lumpen, people. Favours were the dozens of tiny musicians, which collectors like to form into bands, and amusing tablaux of contemporary life, such as



Staffordshire style: Cleopatra by James Neale (circa 1785)

"pew groups" (in which the figures crowd into a church pew) and "arbour groups" (where lovers sit on a bench). Strangely, women rarely occur as subjects on their own.

Considering the attractions of Staffordshire figures, it is not surprising that they have been the subject of booming prices, such as those paid by Mr Whieldon. The problem is that, being a simple marriage between moulded and hand-modelled pieces, Staffordshire pottery is easy to make and, therefore, easy to copy. Even before the present controversy at least one author, Anthony Oliver, had written a novel about a forger of 18th-century Staffordshire ware.

To create his cracked and worn look this fictional forger moved his pieces from a coal-fired kiln into a fridger. The finishing touch was to bury them in cow dung. *English Earthenware Figures 1740 to 1840*, a new book from the *Antique Collectors' Club*, contains the depressing news that even the pieces which are accepted as genuine can be subject to misconceptions over identity.

The author is Pat Halfpenny, the curator of ceramics at the City Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent. She explains that this industry was not in the habit of keeping records. Many "factories" were hardly big enough to be called such, and often had only one making oven and one enamelling kiln. Makers' marks were not common.

As a result, she says, any information is confined to evidence from occasional excavations of factory sites, parish records, and knowledge of the exact date when a given technical development took place (although this last line of enquiry can be misleading, because some lines were produced for longer than one would expect).

Most confusing, however, has been the collectors' and experts' tendency to create heroes out of the potters. Claims to fame by many of the biggest names in Staffordshire pottery were, it turns out, tangential to the least.

"Pratt ware", for example, is a misnomer, as "only two marked jugs can be identified from this factory and there is no evidence that Pratt ever produced figures".

Similar problems beset "Astbury

it had during the 1920s. Similarly, confusion surrounds the products of two Ralph Woods, father and son, resulting in half a century of misattribution.

Finally, and most pertinent to the present fears, Mrs Halfpenny blows away our preconceptions about Whieldon ware. Until now, Thomas Whieldon was the best-known Staffordshire potter of the mid 18th century and the supposed maker of some of the most sought-after Staffordshire ware. But now it turns out that, although he did own the potworks at Fenton Low, Staffordshire, he did not occupy them. There is evidence that Whieldon operated as a potter early on in his career, but few of the figures found on the Whieldon site are of outstanding quality.

As a result, all those owls, bears and miscellaneous candleabra attributed to Whieldon would more accurately be described as "18th-century creamware figures", sponged in a manner which resembles tortoiseshell. Mrs Halfpenny says:

The rise and fall of Whieldon is a lesson in the fickleness of fame.

Fakes are given their own chapter, entitled "The Real Thing", in Mrs Halfpenny's book. Collectors are strongly recommended to handle pieces in order to get a feel for them. Mrs Halfpenny tried to establish a "rogue" gallery at her own museum, but failed. "No one admits to selling such pieces and therefore it is difficult to buy them, except at genuine prices."

"I hoped that some collectors might show me some of their 'wrong' pieces, but I never met any collectors who had any they wished to publicise."

*English Earthenware Figures 1740 to 1840* (342 pages), by Pat Halfpenny, is published by the *Antique Collectors' Club* (0934 385501), price £35.

The name was first introduced in the present century for the convenience of collectors and dealers," Mrs Halfpenny writes. A flood of Astbury-type fakes around 1917 meant that the market in such early figures has never recovered the degree of buoyancy

that it had during the 1920s. Similarly, confusion surrounds the products of two Ralph Woods, father and son, resulting in half a century of misattribution.

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# Love that seat

## SHOPPING

Two's company when it comes to some new chairs

tables and costs from £2,506 to £3,719 through Gerald Moran Interiors.

An al fresco version, inspired by Gothic arches, is available to order from The Chelsea Gardener. Made of stone-enamelled wrought iron in black, white or dark green, it costs £350.

A garden love seat in English applewood can be commissioned from Dorset-based furniture maker John Varley. His *Adirondack* West Street, Abberbury, Dorset DT3 4JU (0305 8717746).

NIcole Swengley

• Aram Designs, 3 Kent Street, WC2B 4AT (071-240 3933). Joshua and Kitty Bowler, Crucial at Ravensdale, 34 Dean Street, London W1 (071-734 4656). The Chelsea Gardener, 125 Sydney Street, London SW3 6NR (071-552 5656). Jakk Dehn, A-Z Studios, 3-5 Hardwidge Street, London SE1 3SY (071-378 0512). Jon Mills, The Studio, 38 Cheltenham Place, Brighton BN1 4AB (0273 621822). Gerald Moran Interiors, 85 Heath Street, London NW3 6UG (071-433 4008). John Varley, H&J Design, West Street, Abberbury, Dorset DT3 4JU (0305 8717746).

An inbuilt refreshments table in the centre, offered a curious novelty that found favour with the Victorians. The Great Exhibition of 1851 featured a triple companion chair, designed by James Deakin, which was a triple upholstered three-seater conversation chair two years ago for £6,000.

The Adirondack sofa, designed by Paolo Piva for B&B Italia, turns into a love seat by rotating one of the back rests 180 degrees. Available in fabric or leather, the structure incorporates two small

tables and costs from £2,506 to £3,719 through Gerald Moran Interiors.

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## BBC 1

6.35 Open University: Inorganic Chemistry — Crystals 7.00 Curves from Parameters (705777)  
7.25 News and weather (560546)  
7.30 Crystal Tropes and Aladdin: Animation (r) (1031972) 7.35 Wiz Bang: Fun and laughter for the young (s) (3227359) 7.45 The Jetsons: Space-age cartoon series (r) (2405934)  
8.05 Egg 'n' Bakes: Cheryl Baker learns about Japanese table manners and samples brown stock sushi (s) (8973359) 8.35 Thunderbirds: Cartoon Adventures (r) (6545514)  
9.00 Going Live! presented by Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. The guests include actor Ian McEwan, American singer Amy Grant, Newswoman's Juliet Morris and Emma Forbes, who cooks a Kilmarnie curvy (s) (9155214) 12.12 Weather (5605421)  
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Cricket highlights of the third day's play in the third test between New Zealand and England in Wellington; 12.45, 1.20 and 1.35 Racing from Newbury; 1.00 News; 1.05 Football: a review of the FA Cup fourth round tie; 1.35 and 2.10 Snooker: semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters from Wembley; 2.45 Rugby League: action from a Salford Cup second round game; 3.55 Winter Olympics: live coverage of the opening ceremony from Albertville in the French Alps (76727408)  
5.50 News and weather (5605595)  
6.00 Regional News (654311)  
6.05 Noel's House Party. Noel Edmonds plays host to Bruno Brookes, Liz Kershaw and Henry Saxon, the ceramic expert of the Antiques Roadshow (s) (972779)  
6.55 Big Break: Shock and general knowledge quiz hosted by Jim Davidson with John Virgo. The contestants are helped by Steve James, Alison Fisher and Willis Thorne (Ceefax) (s) (598408)  
7.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. The diminutive magician is joined by Martin Daniels, John Inman and the Russian Gennadi Kit, who blends dance, mime and juggling skills. (Ceefax) (s) (205666)  
8.10 Moon And Sons: Nearly Deafly Departed. Gladys finds her life is threatened when an elderly lady remembers awkward facts about a woman's death 20 years earlier. Starring Michael Martin and John Michie. (Ceefax) (s) (475717)



Consumer newshounds: Esther Rantzen and team (9.00pm)

9.00 That's Life! Esther Rantzen and her team presents their usual mix of investigations and humour along with the continuing search for a new singing star. (Ceefax) (s) (301662)  
9.45 The Big Break: Mortyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Sport and weather (449330)  
10.05 Midnight Caller: Safe Away. Jane (Garry Cole) is understandably shattered when the delicious Devon (Wendy Kilbourn) decides to marry Richard Clark and is tempted to take him home to national radio (s) (505088)  
10.55 Olympics '92 introduced by Desmond Lyman. The 16th Winter Olympic Games begin with ice hockey. Switzerland meet the gold medalists in the past two Olympics, the Soviet Union, now called the United Team (85374069)  
11.00 Weather (4025441)

## SATELLITE

SKY ONE  
Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites  
6.00am Danger Bay (2878) 8.30 Elephant Boy (2892) 7.00 Fun Factor (40289)  
11.30 The Big Man on Campus (1980) 12.00 The Crowded Sky (1980) 12.30 Weather (2020) 1.00pm Combat (2124) 2.00 WWP Superstars of Wrestling (41652) 3.00 Monkey Business (23595) 4.00 News (205666) 5.00 Unsolved Mysteries (71243)  
6.00 Cops (1) 8.30 Cops (2) (3205) 10.30 American Women (1898) 11.00 The Rock (50508) 12.00 Sunday (50707)  
1.00am Pages from Styland

SKY NEWS  
Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.  
News on the hour.  
6.00am Sunrise (170379) 8.30 Nightline (20593) 10.00 Dayline (48576) 10.30 Weather (20595) 11.00 Dayline

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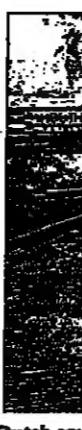
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## BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Reading and Grasping Light 7.05 The Albert Memorial 7.30 James Hutton; geology? 7.55 Before Einstein 8.45 The Creation of Childhood 8.45 Disappearing Childhood 9.35 Work and Society 10.00 Henry IV parts one and two workshop 10.25 Instruments: Made to Measure 10.50 Panel Painting 11.15 An Introduction to Economics 11.40 Managing Change at Jaguar 12.05 Business: Takeover 12.30 Communication and Education: Deadline Midnight Wednesday 12.55 Practical Conservation for Land Managers 1.45 Valued Environments: Environmental Values 2.35 Managing Schools: Penententiary Comprehensive (10365)  
3.00 Mahabharata: Epic Indian drama in Hindi with English subtitles (3540392)  
3.40 Films: Southern Thaw (1948). Red Skelton stars as a simple Yankee spy in a very inferior remake of Buster Keaton's *The General*. Directed by Edward Sedgwick (5650601)  
5.10 Late: Agatha: Highlights from this week's *The Late Show* (s) (370366)  
5.55 Shockter: Emma Holmes presents highlights of the first semi-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters from the Wembley Conference Centre (273365)  
6.45 News from Moira Stuart. Sport and weather (100788)  
7.00 Tonight's Masterclass. The final programme of the series, shown in memory of the great French cellist who died in December 1990. He takes Sophie Faehn and Richard Stämpfli through the Debussy Sonata and then, with Christopher Hoyle and Oren Shevlin, through a performance of his own Sonata Breve (r) (174446)



Dutch courage: Chris Simon and Les Blank on tour (7.50pm)

7.50 Fine Cut  
● CHOICE: The series of feature-length documentaries continues with an offering by Les Blank about Americans discovering Europe. There are 40 of them, taking a latter-day grand tour by bus and rattling through 22 cities in 10 countries in a couple of weeks. It is a subject easy to mock but Blank resists the temptation. Perhaps the fact that he and his editor, Chris Simon, were using the trip as an opportunity to do with his wife a much-needed natural treatment. With help on the soundtrack from Fats Waller, Bob Dylan and Bo Diddley, the Globus Gateway bus takes its cameras-clicking cargo through Cologne and Heidelberg, and on to cuckoo clock in the Black Forest and yodelling in Tyrol. The star of the show, curiously, is none of the 40 Americans but the British courier, an urban and intelligent man who describes himself as a combination of actor, theatrical manager and dictator in velvet gloves. (141098)  
9.15 Moving Pictures. Tonight's programme includes an interview with writer and director James Toback and a film made by Dusan Makavejev about the cinema of the Yugoslav civil war (872142)  
10.05 Film: Exposed (1983) starring Nastassja Kinski and Rudolf Nureyev. Flashy thriller about a top fashion model who is drawn into the world of terrorism after falling in love with a violinist with a dubious background. Directed by James Toback (972972)  
11.40 Film: The Big Bang (1989). Documentary in which people from all walks of life, including a film producer and a concentration camp survivor, are asked for their views on life. Directed by James Toback (977773). Ends at 1.00am

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes  
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10.20 Aspel and Company. Michael Aspel's guests are Nat King Cole's daughter, Natalie, actor Donald Pleasence and funny man John Sessions (911359)  
11.05 *Our Town*. American drama about a group of soldiers during the Vietnam war (23585)  
12.10am Passengers. An unusual look at some of the great cities of the world. Tonight's instant view of Amsterdam (6701465)  
12.40 *WCW World*: Action from America (6723536)  
1.40 New Music: Daniel Diamon and Jane Lyons White present the latest music and celebrity interview (6461644)  
2.45 *Bangkok Beat*. Includes a recording of Anasaka playing live at the Dome in Birmingham (71248)  
3.15 American College Football. Georgia vs Florida (350605)  
4.15 *The Hit Man And Her*. Disco sounds and fashion presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan (s) (1846151)  
5.30 *Morning News* (18511), Ends at 6.00am

## ITV

6.00 TV-am (961609)  
9.25 Motormouth: Neil Buchanan meets Britain's most famous fox, Misty; Gaby Roslin talks to Jamie Addicot from the Variety Club of Great Britain; and the winners of the Kite Fly 1992 Competition are announced (5385986)  
11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video features Madness with "It Must Be Love" (s) (25330)  
12.00 The Munsters Today. Inferior remake of the classic American comedy series (s) (105053)  
1.00 News and weather (5373394) 1.05 LWT: News and weather (5373395)  
1.10 Saint and Gravesham. Ian and Jimmy introduce a preview of tomorrow's Rumbelow's League Cup semi-final between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur (3333448) 1.50 The Day (4793093)  
1.55 *Ski Tip*. The last programme in the series features Nordic skiing (5210292)  
2.25 International Athletics. Carl Lewis makes his first British appearance for eight years in the 60 metres race in the Pearl Assurance Games from the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. Introduced by Jim Rodger (5389493)  
4.45 Results Service presented by Eilon Welby (4574972)  
5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (399392) 5.05 LWT News and weather (7615231)  
5.15 *Ski Tip*. The last programme in the series features Nordic skiing (5210292)  
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